

# BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

WITH  
GRAND  
MAL



ADAM WARREN



**BUBBLEGUM  
CRISIS** **GRAND  
MAL**

The logo is set against a background of vertical blue stripes on the left and a halftone dot pattern on the right. The text is in a bold, italicized, yellow font with a blue outline. The words "BUBBLEGUM" and "CRISIS" are stacked vertically. To the right of "CRISIS" is a small rectangular box containing the words "GRAND" and "MAL" stacked vertically.

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# BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

GRAND  
MAL

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ADAM WARREN

additional inks

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with an introduction by

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DARK HORSE COMICS®



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BUBBLEGUM CRISIS™: GRAND MAL

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This book collects issues 1-4 of the Dark Horse comic-book series *Bubblegum Crisis™: Grand Mal*.

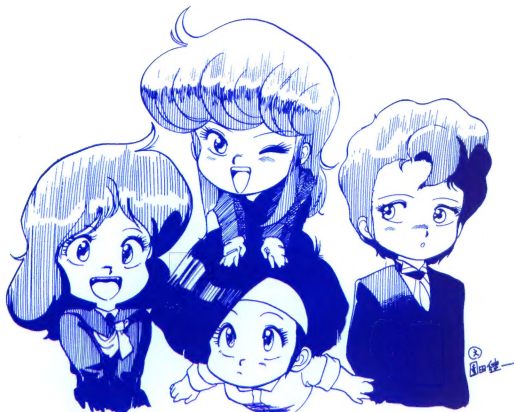


Published by  
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.  
10956 SE Main Street  
Milwaukie, OR 97222

ISBN: 1-56971-120-8  
First edition: September 1995

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in Canada



Adam's slow and steady efforts at drawing otaku\*-type manga have once again borne fruit!

Although **Bubblegum Crisis** is just a fond memory to me now, it gives me great pleasure to see the characters I designed make their appearance in America.

Good job, Adam!  
Keep on drawing!  
I'm behind you all the way!

\*dedicated fan

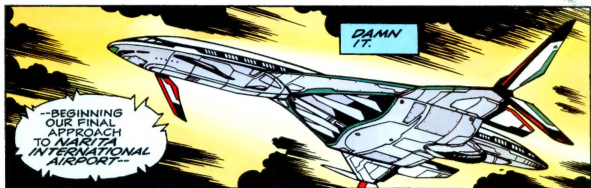
# 園田健一

—Kenichi Sonoda

(Who has been mired in the depths of Doom for three months now . . . )

## CHAPTER ONE

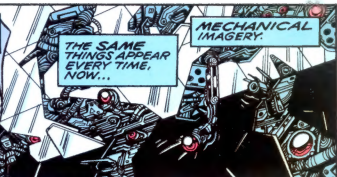






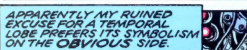


AH,  
THERE  
THEY ARE.



MECHANICAL  
IMAGERY.

THE SAME  
THINGS APPEAR  
EVERY TIME,  
NOW...



APPARENTLY MY RUINED  
EXCUSE FOR A TEMPORAL  
LOBE PREFERS ITS SYMBOLISM  
ON THE OBVIOUS SIDE.



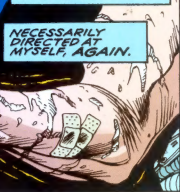
AND,  
COMING  
UP--



--OUR FEATURE  
PRESENTATION--



--UNCONTROLLABLE  
VIOLENCE.



NECESSARILY  
DIRECTED AT  
MYSELF, AGAIN.



HOPE THIS  
TIME WON'T  
BE TOO  
DAMAGING...



I'M RUNNING OUT OF  
PIECES OF MYSELF  
TO SACRIFICE.



WELL, HERE  
IT COMES.



WHAT  
BETTER  
WAY--



--TO CELEBRATE MY  
TRIUMPHANT  
RETURN TO  
MEGATOKYO--?

A.D. 2031

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"MEGATOKYO!"

"A PROUD PHOENIX  
RISING TRIUMPHANT  
FROM THE ASHES OF THE  
2025 GREAT KANTO  
EARTHQUAKE--"

— GREATER TOKYO  
BOARD OF TOURISM

"OH, WORLD'S LARGEST  
COMPANY TOWN--"

"A CRIPPLED WHORE,  
PROSTRATE AT THE FEET  
OF MASTER GENOM--"

"YOUR STREETS CHOKED  
WITH GENOM'S *GAIJIN*  
AND GENOM'S *BOOMERS*--"  
— SASANISHIKI AKIRA,  
"STREET POET"

"BIG CITY"  
— PRISS (retro-  
thrash rock singer)

VIDEO  
SAMPLE

--INITIAL 7.9  
TREMBLOR ONLY  
KILLED SAY, EIGHTY  
OR NINETY THOUSAND  
OUTRIGHT--

--BUT  
THESE  
FIRES--!!

WE'RE TALKING  
SIX FIGURE  
CASUALTIES, OR  
EVEN SEVEN  
FIGURE--

"TOKYO HOLOCAUST  
IGNITES DOMESTIC AND  
WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC  
FIRESTORM--"  
— UNIVERSAL MEDIA  
NETWORK (BUSINESS)

"--GENOM CORPORATION  
HAS EMERGED AS A MAJOR  
PLAYER IN THE CHAOTIC  
AFTERMATH--"  
— BBC BUSINESS UPDATE



--LET GENOM BRING IN FOREIGNERS--

--OR EVEN THESE BOOMER THINGS--!

WE NEED HELP HERE--

VIDEO SAMPLE

"GENOM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SPEARHEADS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT."--BEIJING BUSINESS JOURNAL

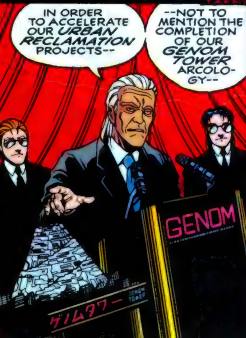
"AFTER PREYING ON THE REELING GIANTS OF CORPORATE JAPAN--"

"GENOM TARGETS PREY OVERSEAS."  
--COMMERCE/ET NEWS SERVICE

"WHO THE HELL IS GENOM?"  
--U.S. PRESIDENT DEIRDRE SHAW



VIDEO SAMPLE



IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE OUR URBAN RECLAMATION PROJECTS--

--NOT TO MENTION THE COMPLETION OF OUR GENOM TOWER ARCOLOGY--

--WE'RE PLANNING LIMITED USAGE OF OUR BEST-KNOWN PRODUCT--

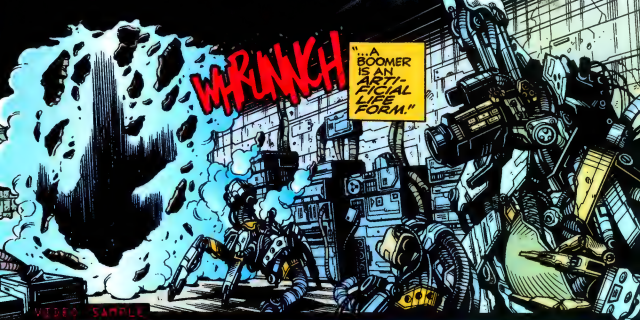
--THE BOOMER.

"WHAT'S A BOOMER, MOMMY?"



"WELL, HONEY..."





VIDEO SAMPLE

CONTROVERSIAL "BOOMERS" SEEN HERE HARD AT WORK ON ONE OF GENOM'S "URBAN RECLAMATION" SITES.

BIG FELLOWS, AREN'T THEY...

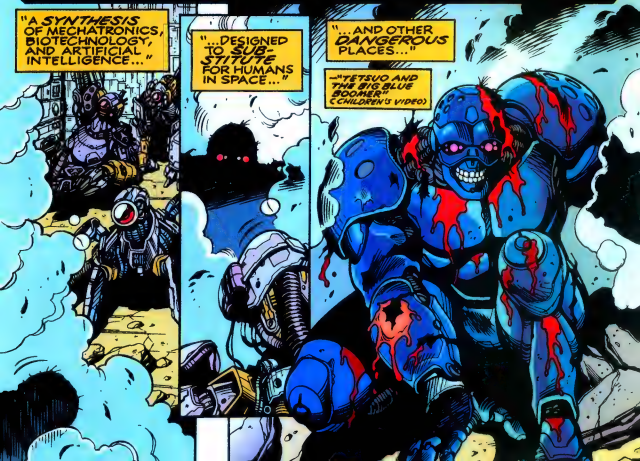
RECLAMATION  
山ノ口2  
1007

"A SYNTHESIS OF MECHANOTRONICS, BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE..."

"...DESIGNED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMANS IN SPACE..."

"...AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES..."

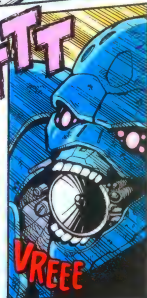
"TETSUO AND THE BIG BLUE BOOMER"  
(CHILDREN'S VIDEO)



VIDEO SAMPLE

BOOMERS  
AND YOU--

--A WINNING  
COMBINATION  
FOR A SAFE  
FUTURE!

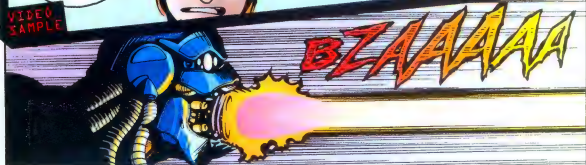


--TWELVE  
DEAD, AND  
AT LEAST  
TWENTY-  
FIVE  
INJURED.

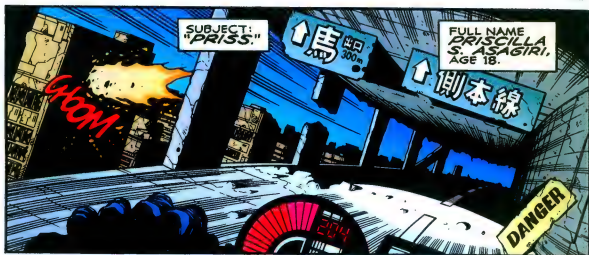
AT THIS TIME  
WE CANNOT  
CONFIRM RUMORS  
OF POSSIBLE  
BOOMER  
INVOLVEMENT  
IN THIS  
HEINOUS  
CRIME--

**RAMDACE**

VIDEO  
SAMPLE







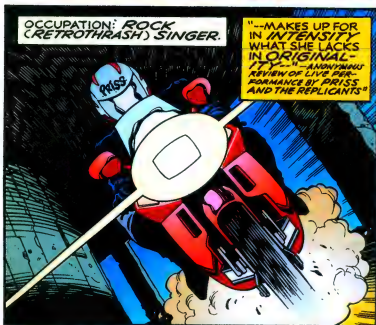
SUBJECT:  
"PRISS."

FULL NAME  
PRISCILLA  
S. ASAGIRI,  
AGE 18.

OCCUPATION: *ROCK*  
(RETROTHRASH) SINGER.

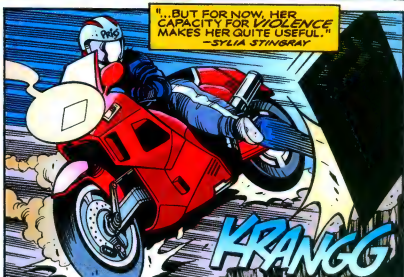
"--MAKES UP FOR  
IN *INTENSITY*  
WHAT SHE LACKS  
IN *ORIGINAL-*  
*ITY*--" --ANONYMOUS  
REVIEW OF LIVE PER-  
FORMANCE BY PRISS  
AND THE REPLICANTS."

"ADMITTEDLY, PRISS *IS*  
SOMEWHAT OF AN *UN-*  
*GUIDED MISSILE*."



"DOWN THE ROAD,  
HER *INSTABILITY*  
MAY POSE *SERIOUS*  
PROBLEMS..."

"...BUT FOR NOW, HER  
CAPACITY FOR *VIOLENCE*  
MAKES HER QUITE *USEFUL*."  
--SYLIA STINGRAY



"--WHAT, IF I DON'T  
THINK **GENOM**  
IS 'ALL-GOOD  
AND DESERVING OF  
ALL MY LOVE'--"

"--AND  
SAY SO--"

"--THEN PEOPLE  
SAY I'M 'TOO  
POLITICAL?'"

"THEY  
CAN JUST  
GO TO  
HELL--"

--PRISS,  
IN INTERVIEW  
WITH  
WAWLEMAC  
MUSIC 'ZINE

VIDEO SAMPLE

C'MON, PRISS,  
YOU RAGE-  
AHOLIC...!

DO SOMETHING  
ANGRY AND  
UNHINGED!

VIDEO SAMPLE

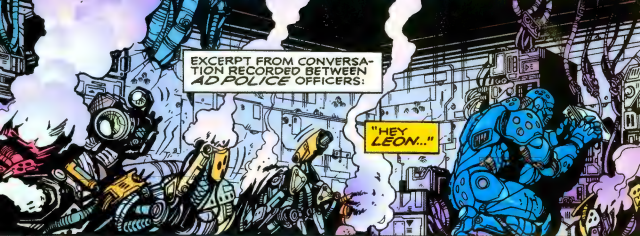
SHOW  
US WHAT  
A **WILD  
REBEL**  
YOU  
ARE!

THAT'S  
MORE  
LIKE IT--

EXCERPT FROM COUNSEL-  
ING SESSION (MANDATED  
BY PLEA BARGAIN ON  
ASSAULT CHARGES):

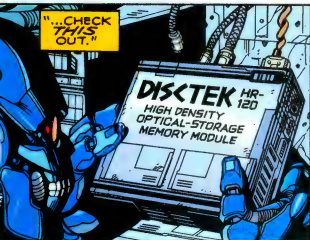
THERAPIST: "THAT'S QUITE A LOAD  
OF **UNHEALTHY ANGER** YOU'RE  
CARRYING THERE, PRISS..."

PRISS:  
"BLEEP YOU!"



EXCERPT FROM CONVERSATION  
RECORDED BETWEEN  
AD POLICE OFFICERS:

"HEY  
LEON..."



"...CHECK  
THIS  
OUT."

**DISCTEK** HR-120  
HIGH DENSITY  
OPTICAL-STORAGE  
MEMORY MODULE

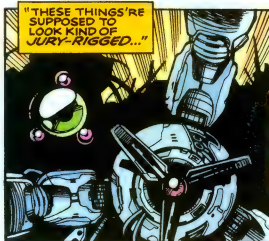


"WE GOT SIGHTINGS  
OF, QUOTE, 'WEIRD  
MECHS' IN THE RE-  
CLAMATION ZONES."

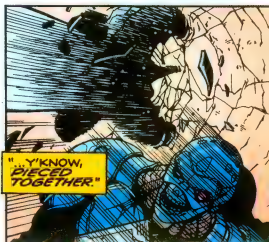


"WHAT, SOME NEW  
TYPE OF BOOMER?"

"NAH,  
DON'T  
THINK  
SO..."

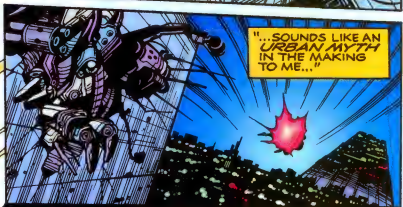
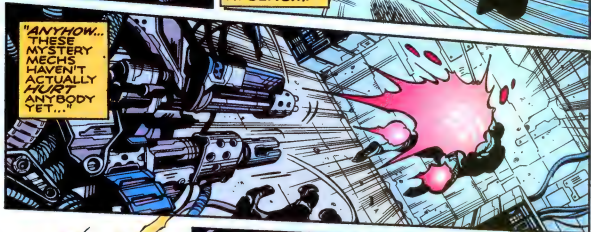


"THESE THINGS'RE  
SUPPOSED TO  
LOOK KIND OF  
JURY-RIGGED..."



"Y'KNOW,  
'PIECED  
TOGETHER."









SUBJECT:  
SYLIA  
STINGRAY,  
AGE 21.



OFFICIAL RECORDS,  
BIRTH TO AGE 15,  
LOST IN 2025  
EARTHQUAKE.

OCCUPATION  
LISTED AS  
"OWNER/OPERATOR,  
'SILKY DOLL'  
LINGERIE SHOP"  
ON 2030 INCOME  
TAX RETURN.

KONYA  
WA  
"HURRICANE"

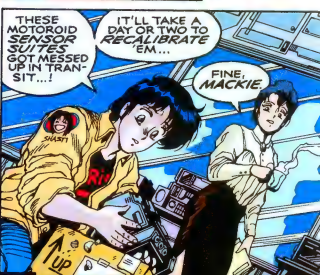


CONTROLS *SUBSTANTIAL*  
FINANCIAL AND REAL  
ESTATE HOLDINGS--

--NOT  
DETAILED  
ON 2030  
INCOME TAX  
RETURN.

MŌ KICHIDO  
"HURRICANE"

HEY,  
SIS--



THESE  
MOTOROID  
SENSOR  
SUITES  
GOT MESS'D  
UP IN TRAN-  
SIT...!

IT'LL TAKE A  
DAY OR TWO TO  
RECALIBRATE  
'EM...

FINE,  
MACKIE



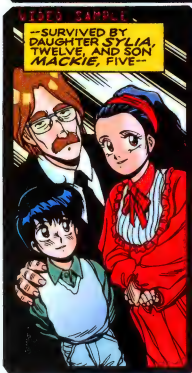
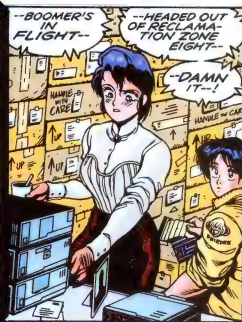
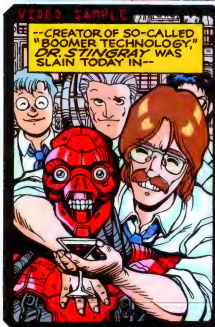
--GET A CLOSE-UP  
ON SYLIA HERE,  
MACKIE--!

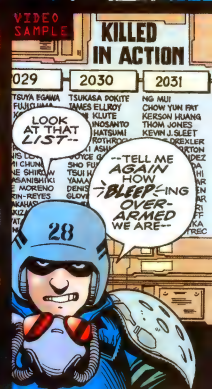
"HI! I'M OL'  
ENIGMATIC  
SYLIA!"



"WHY, I'M A MYSTERY  
OF TWO CONUNDRUMS  
OF A RIDDLE OF  
ANOTHER MYSTERY--"

NENE  
DEAR,  
YOU'RE  
GETTING  
OUT OF  
HAND--





EDITORIAL

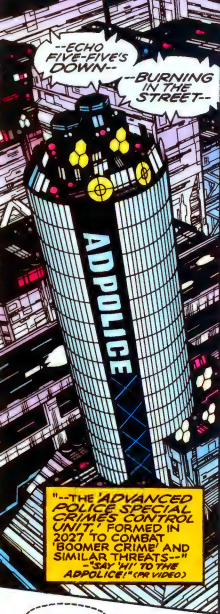
VIDEO SAMPLE

KILLED IN ACTION

| 029                     | 2030                           | 2031                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TSUYA EGAWA<br>FUKUJIMA | TSUKASA POKITE<br>JAMES ELLROY | NG MU<br>CHOW YUN FAT |
|                         | KLUTE                          | KERSON HUANG          |
|                         | INOSANTO                       | THOM JONES            |
|                         | HATSUMI                        | KEVIN J. SLEET        |
|                         | ROTHWICK                       | OREXLER               |
|                         | ASH                            | OKTON                 |
|                         | VOICE G                        | DEZ                   |
|                         | SNO FU                         | PHI                   |
|                         | TSUI H                         | HI                    |
|                         | YAMA                           | EN                    |
|                         | DENSE                          | ST                    |
|                         | GLON                           | KA                    |
|                         |                                | TREC                  |

LOOK AT THAT LIST--

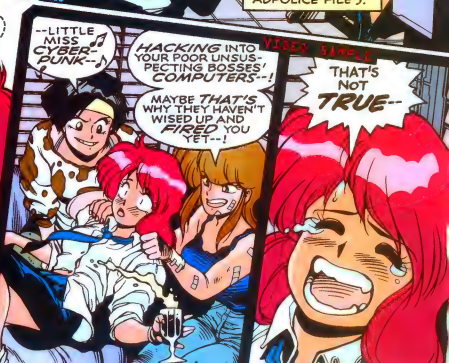
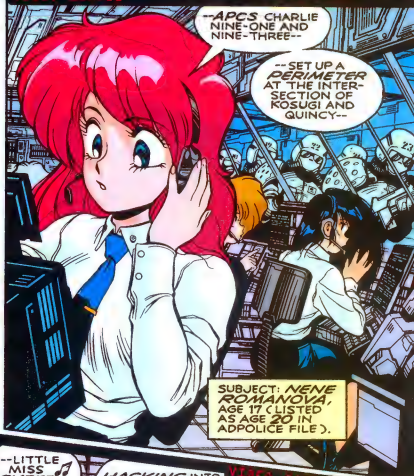




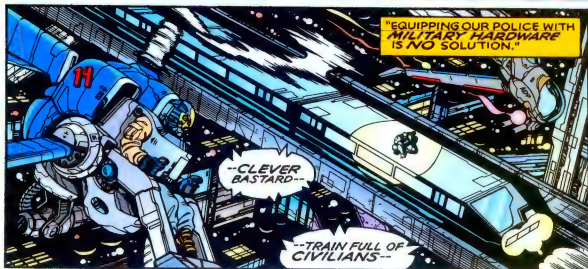
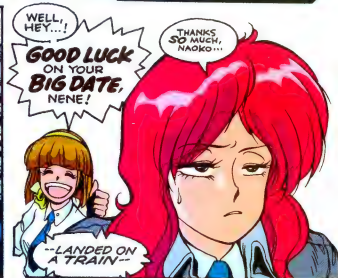
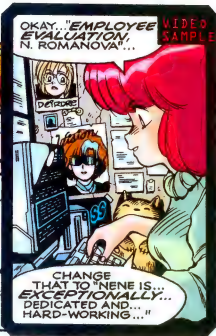
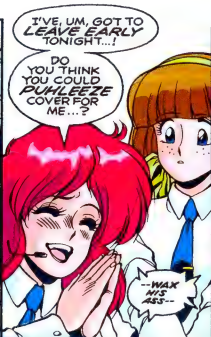
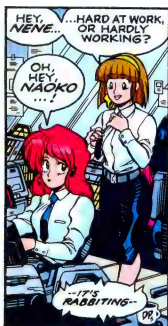
"--THE ADVANCED POLICE SPECIAL CRIMES CONTROL UNIT, FORMED IN 2027 TO COMBAT 'BOOMER CRIME' AND SIMILAR THREATS--"  
--"SAY HI" TO THE ADPOLICE!" (PR VIDEO)

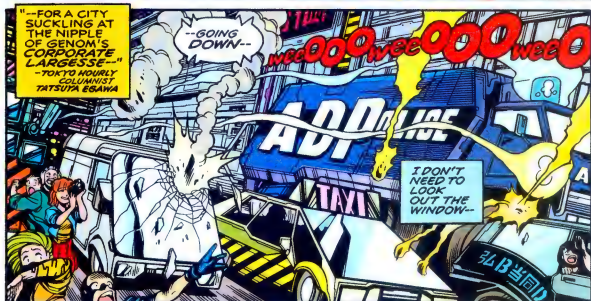
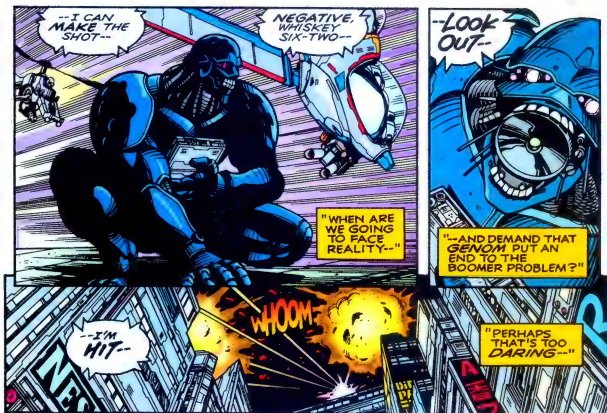


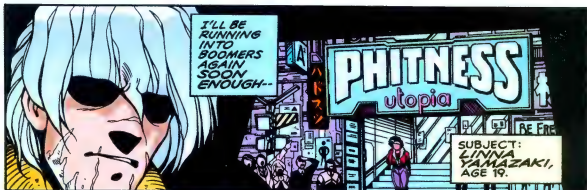
OCCUPATION:  
ADPOLICE  
"COMMUNICA-  
TIONS SUPPORT  
SPECIALIST."







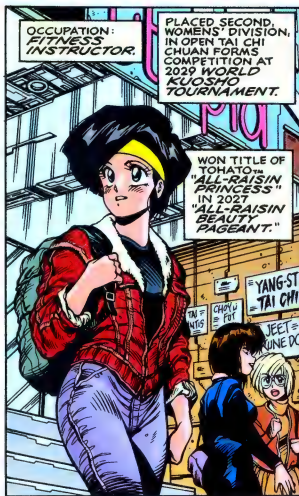




I'LL BE RUNNING INTO BOOMERS AGAIN SOON ENOUGH--

PHITNESS  
utopia

SUBJECT:  
LINNA YAMAZAKI,  
AGE 19.



OCCUPATION:  
FITNESS  
INSTRUCTOR.

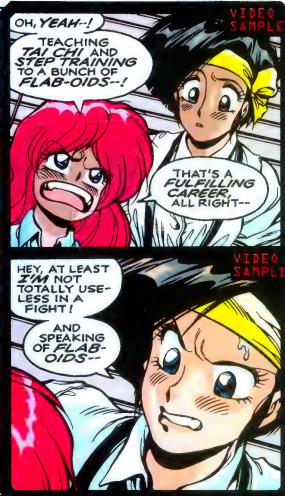
PLACED SECOND,  
WOMEN'S DIVISION,  
IN OPEN TAI CHI  
CHUAN FORMS  
COMPETITION AT  
2029 WORLD  
KUOSHU  
TOURNAMENT.

WON TITLE OF  
TOHATO "ALL-RAISIN  
PRINCESS"  
IN 2027  
"ALL-RAISIN  
BEAUTY  
PAGEANT."

YANG-ST  
TAI CHI

CHOUU  
FOT

JEET  
KUNE DO



VIDEO  
SAMPLE

OH, YEAH--!

TEACHING  
TAI CHI AND  
STEE TRAINING  
TO A BUNCH OF  
FLAB-OIDS--!

THAT'S A  
FULFILLING  
CAREER,  
ALL RIGHT--

VIDEO  
SAMPLE

HEY, AT LEAST  
I'M NOT  
TOTALLY USE-  
LESS IN A  
FIGHT!

AND SPEAKING  
OF FLAB-  
OIDS--

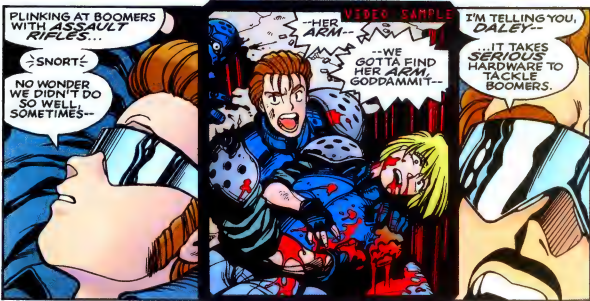
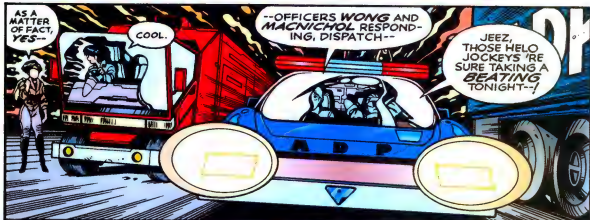


ANATA NI  
"HURRICANE"

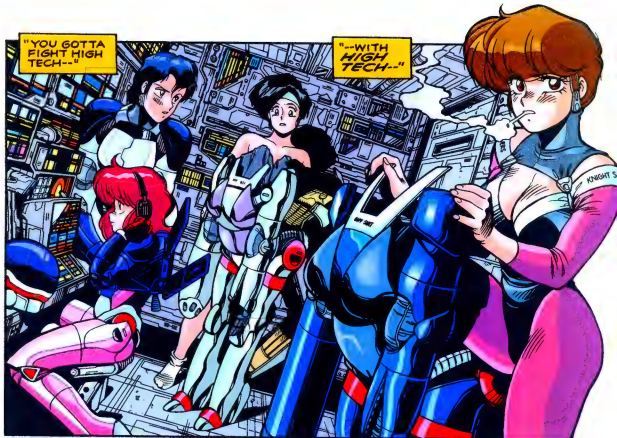
TSUTAE TAI  
"LOVING YOU"

SKREEE

FINE  
LINGERIE





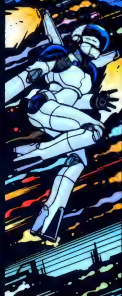


"YOU GOTTA FIGHT HIGH TECH--"

"--WITH HIGH TECH--"

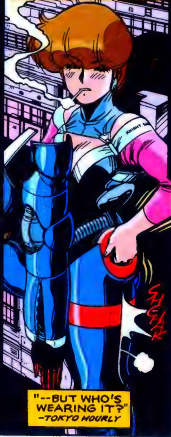
VIDEO SAMPLE

--VIDEOTAPED IN FLIGHT OVER THE NEW ROPPONGI DISTRICT--



--MATCHES NO KNOWN TYPE OF BOOMER OR--

"--CLEARLY POWERED ARMOR OF SOME SORT--"



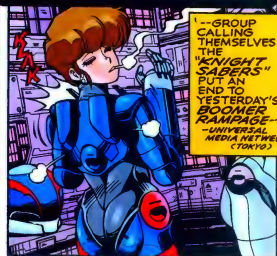
"--BUT WHO'S WEARING IT?"  
--TOKYO HOURLY

VIDEO SAMPLE



"KNIGHT SABERS"--?

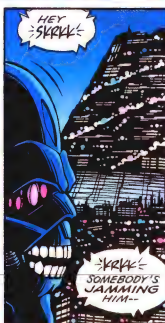
WHO THE BLEEP IS THAT--

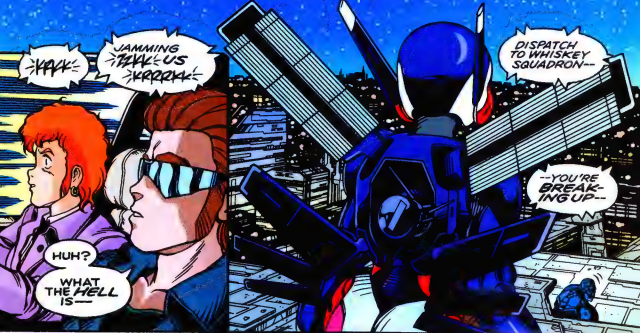


"--GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE "KNIGHT SABERS" PUT AN END TO YESTERDAY'S BOOMER RAMPAGE--"  
--UNIVERSAL MEDIA NETWORK (TOKYO)

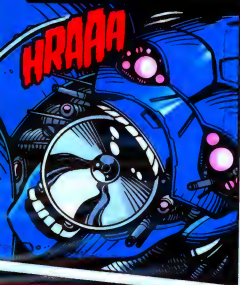
"HIGH-TECH  
VIGILANTES:  
A LOOK AT MEGA-  
TOKYO'S SHADOWY  
'KNIGHT SABERS'  
--PACIFICA NEWSNET

"RUMORS OF  
'KNIGHT  
SABERS' IN-  
VOLVEMENT IN  
'CORPORATE  
MERCENARY'  
ACTIVITY...  
MORE TONIGHT  
AT ELEVEN."  
--UNIVERSAL MEDIA  
NETWORK (TOKYO)

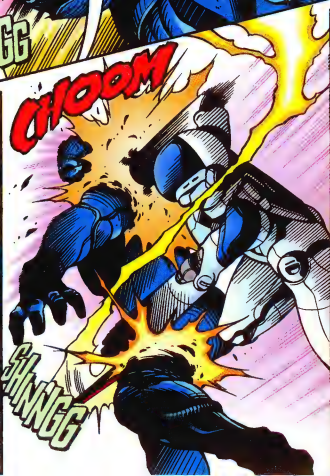












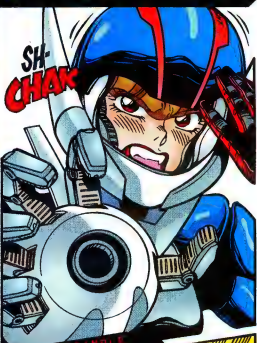
--ON THE  
"KNIGHT  
SABERS,"  
CHAIRMAN  
QUINCY--

IS THEIR  
ARMOR A  
GENOM  
INVENTION,  
OR--

--REPORTEDLY  
DESTROYED COM-  
BAT BOOMERS  
OF GENOM MANU-  
FACTURE--?

NO  
COMMENT.

VIDEO SAMPLE



VIDEO SAMPLE



C'MON  
BEG  
ME--  
BEG  
ME--



--BEG FOR YOUR  
SYNTHETIC  
EXCUSE FOR  
A LIFE--  
--BEFORE  
I END  
IT--



VIDEO  
SAMPLE

--THE "KNIGHT  
SABERS"? THEY'RE  
CRUCIAL  
REALM!!

THE WAY  
THEY FIGHT  
SICKENING  
VIOLENCE  
WITH EVEN MORE  
SICKENING  
VIOLENCE--

--YOU  
GOTTA  
LOVE  
IT--

KNOW  
WHAT I LIKE  
ABOUT THESE  
"KNIGHT  
SABERS,"  
DALEY?

THEY'VE  
GOT GOOD  
HAND  
WRITING.

*Knight  
Sabers*

YOU JUST  
DON'T SEE  
THAT TOO  
OFTEN NOW-  
ADAYS...

THEY'RE NOT  
TOO SHABBY AT  
SHREDDING  
BOOMERS,  
EITHER...

LOOK  
AT  
THIS!

HEY,  
MACNICHOL--

--WE  
FOUND  
SOME  
THING--!

'S A HIGH-CAPACITY  
MEMORY MODULE.

THIS MODEL  
GETS USED AS A  
REMOVABLE  
STORAGE  
DEVICE FOR  
BACKUP DATA,  
USUALLY...

HUH...

WELL,  
BETTER  
CALL THE  
TECHS.

DISC TEK HR 120  
HI-DENSITY  
OPTICAL-STORAGE  
MEMORY MODULE

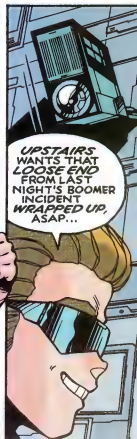
EVIDENCE

LOOKS  
LIKE A NEW  
PUZZLE  
FOR THEM  
TO PLAY  
WITH...

## CHAPTER TWO









UM...

"LOOSE  
END"...?

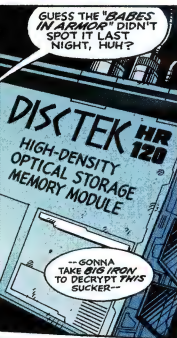
YEAH.

THAT **BOOMER**  
THE "KNIGHT SABERS"  
OFFED WAS CARRYING  
SOME KIND OF  
"MEMORY MODULE"  
THINGAMABOB.

--IT'S GOT AN  
INCREDIBLE  
COMPRESSION  
LEVEL--

--WEIRDEST  
CODING  
TV'S EVER  
SEEN--

DISKTEK HR 120  
HIGH-DENSITY  
OPTICAL STORAGE  
MEMORY MODULE



GUESS THE "**BABES  
IN ARMOR**" DIDN'T  
SPOT IT LAST  
NIGHT, HUH?

DISKTEK HR 120  
HIGH-DENSITY  
OPTICAL STORAGE  
MEMORY MODULE

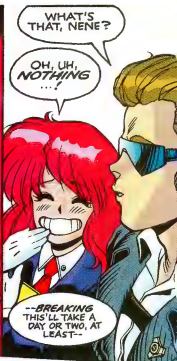
--GONNA  
TAKE **BIG IRON**  
TO DECRYPT THIS  
SUCKER--



OH,  
JEEZ...!

I DIDN'T  
NOTICE THE STUPID  
THING...

BETTER  
LET **ADAM** KNOW  
THE  
BAD NEWS--



WHAT'S  
THAT, NENE?

OH, UH,  
NOTHING  
...

--**BREAKING**  
THIS'LL TAKE A  
DAY OR TWO, AT  
LEAST--



UM...  
SO...

... SINCE  
IT WAS  
RECOVERED  
FROM A  
**BOOMER**...



"THIS **MODULE'S**  
SOMEHOW  
CONNECTED TO  
**GENOM**, RIGHT?"

"NOPE."

"THE **TECHS**  
SAY IT'S CODING'S  
NOTHING LIKE  
THE KIND OUR  
PALS AT **GENOM**  
CORPORATION  
WOULD USE."

"WEIRD,  
AIN'T IT?"

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"OH, GENOM  
TOWER..."

"...YOU KILO-  
METER-HIGH  
PHALLIC  
SYMBOL..."

"LOOMING OVER THE  
DWARFED SKYLINE  
OF SO-CALLED  
'MEGATOKYO'..."

MY,  
MY...

...IF IT  
ISN'T A FELLOW  
'INTELLECTUAL  
ASSET'...

"...AS A NONE-TOO-  
SUBTLE REMINDER  
OF EXACTLY WHO  
DOMINATES OUR  
WEAK-WILLED CITY  
AND NATION...  
AND WORLD..."

-AKIRA SASANISHIKI,  
'STREET POET'

OF  
COURSE.

...FORCED  
TO GO  
**SLUMMING**  
IN THE  
GRAVITY  
WELL!

THAT'S  
AN APT AND  
INSIGHTFUL  
SUMMATION OF  
MY CURRENT  
SITUATION,  
CERTAINLY.

STILL  
PLAYING  
WITH  
**KNIVES**,  
I SEE...

NOTHING EQUALS THE  
TWO-SWORD FORMS FOR  
RELAXING THE "**SEETH-  
ING CAULDRON**"  
OF MY MIND...

OOH,  
**SEETHING**,  
IS IT?

SO...  
DID YOU  
ENJOY YOUR  
STAY ON  
GLORIOUS  
"SPACE ISLAND  
**GENAROS**"?

"A FASCINATING  
RUMOR ABOUT  
GENOM'S WORLD-  
WIDE SUCCESS..."



"OUR STEPPING STONE TO THE COSMOS--?"

I'LL ADMIT, GENAROS IS OVER-  
RUN WITH OUR RATHER DULL  
BOOMER COUSINS...

...BUT AT LEAST  
IT LACKS PARANOID  
UPPER-MANAGEMENT  
ORGANICS.

"...ALLEGES THAT A  
HANDFUL OF SHADOWY  
INDIVIDUALS FORM A COVERT  
PLANNING GROUP..."

ON THAT  
SUBJECT...

...HAVE THE  
ORGANICS  
*HERE*  
THREATENED  
TO RESET YOUR  
NEUROPHAGES  
YET?

WITH OUR  
EUROPEAN *MECH*  
FRIEND DUE TO  
ENACT ITS  
"SINISTER  
PLAN"?

I THINK  
NOT--

VIDEO SAMPLE

--THE PROCESS  
BY WHICH BOOMER  
ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
IS GENERATED  
DOES HAVE ITS  
LIMITATIONS,  
UNFORTUNATELY.

沼雄

TOKYO  
BIZ TALK

GENOM EXECUTIVE  
BOARD CHAIRMAN  
QUINCY

"...UNLISTED IN ANY  
OFFICIAL ORGANI-  
ZATIONAL CHART..."

"...WHICH IS RESPONSIB-  
LE FOR MUCH OF  
GENOM'S *INNOVATIVE*  
CORPORATE STRATEGY..."  
--BIZNET RUMORLINE

SPECULATION THAT WE'VE  
CREATED INDIVIDUALS WITH  
ENHANCED COGNITIVE, OR  
INTUITIVE POWERS, IS,  
SADLY, UNTRUE--

VIDEO  
SAMPLE

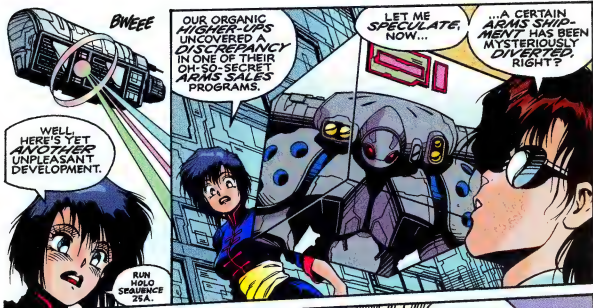
I ASSUME  
YOU'VE BEEN  
BRIEFED ON  
LAST NIGHT'S  
DEBACLE?

PREP  
HOLO-  
DISPLAY  
THREE.

IN  
GORY  
DETAIL.

BUT  
WHAT MORE  
CAN WE EXPECT  
FROM BOOMERS  
INSTALLED WITH  
SUBHUMAN  
INTELLECTS?





BWEE

OUR ORGANIC  
HIGHER-UPS  
UNCOVERED A  
DISCREPANCY  
IN ONE OF THEIR  
OH-SO-SECRET  
ARMS SALES  
PROGRAMS.

LET ME  
SPECULATE,  
NOW...

...A CERTAIN  
ARMS SHIP-  
MENT HAS BEEN  
MYSTERIOUSLY  
DIVERTED,  
RIGHT?

WELL,  
HERE'S YET  
ANOTHER  
UNPLEASANT  
DEVELOPMENT.

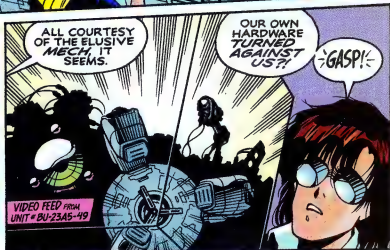
RUN  
MOLO  
SEQUENCE  
25A.



AH, SUCH ENHANCED  
COGNITION!

YES, A SUPPOSED  
"COMPUTER ERROR"  
SENT AN EMBARRASSINGLY  
ILLEGAL CARGO OF  
HEAVY-DUTY COMBAT  
BOOMERS TO OUR  
FAIR CITY.

OF COURSE,  
SAID SHIPMENT  
PROMPTLY  
DISAPPEARED  
OFF THE LOAD-  
ING DOCK.



ALL COURTESY OF  
THE ELUSIVE  
MECH, IT  
SEEMS.

OUR OWN  
HARDWARE  
TURNED  
AGAINST  
US?!

GASP!

VIDEO FEED FROM  
UNIT # BU-23A5-49

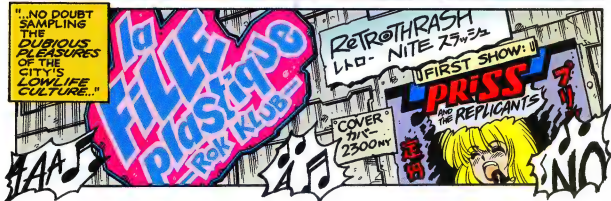


BUT, ON  
A MORE  
POSITIVE  
NOTE...

...OUR  
BAIT HAS  
ARRIVED  
IN MEGA-  
TOKYO.

AMERICAN CITIZEN  
CETHNIC HYPHEN:  
RUSSIAN) PETER  
VASHNEVSKAYA.

QUITE A VARIED  
AND INTERESTING  
CAREER HE'S  
LED...

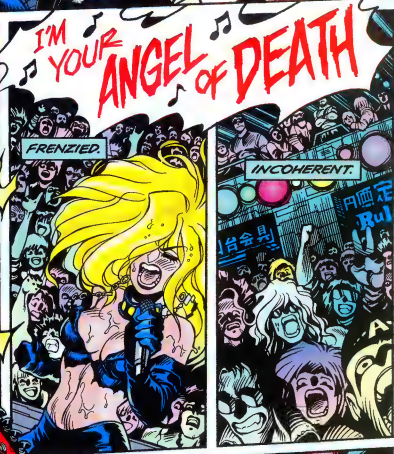
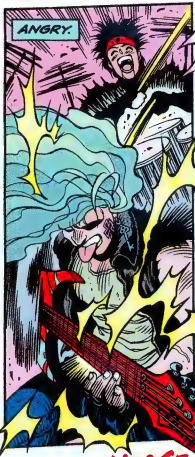
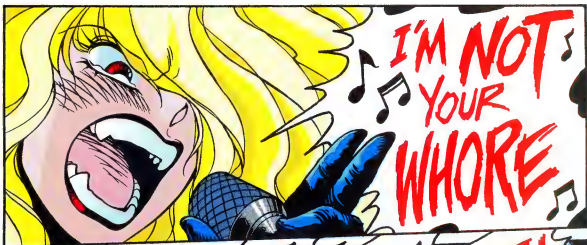


MY  
MISSION  
IN LIFE...

IS TO SEE  
YOU **DIE**

...BABY.





**I'M YOUR NOOSE  
--YOUR RAZOR  
BLADE--  
--YOUR LETHAL  
INJECTION--**





WRITHING  
IN PAIN

NEVER COULD  
STOMACH  
THE PRISSEY  
SO-CALLED  
"MUSIC"  
OF THOSE  
MINIMONO  
POSEURS...

...OR EVEN THE  
FAUVISTS,  
WITH THEIR  
TRENDY  
AUGMENTED  
VOCAL CORDS...

...BUT RETROTHRASH  
I CAN DEAL WITH, AS LONG  
AS IT'S LOUD, FAST,  
AND LAUGHABLE.

NOW, THIS BAND'S GOT THE  
PERIOD INSTRUMENTA-  
TION DOWN...

...AND THE LEAD  
SINGER'S NOT  
AFRAID TO SPORT  
THOSE OUTRE  
PERIOD OUTFITS.

HER VOCALS  
AREN'T BAD,  
EITHER.

VIDEO SAMPLE

--BACK TO YOUR  
POLITICAL  
VIEWS, PRISS.

NOW,  
EXACTLY WHAT  
"SERIOUS"  
STATEMENT  
ARE YOU MAKING  
WITH THAT SILLY  
BLONDE WIG  
AND ANIMAL  
LEATHER MINI-  
SKIRT?

THE  
STATE-  
MENT  
IS THIS--

--BLEEP--  
OFF,  
JERK--

SHE SOUNDS LIKE ME  
AS A TEENAGER...

YOUNG...  
ANGRY...  
UTTERLY  
WITHOUT  
A CLUE.

YOU'LL NEVER  
CONTROL  
MEEEE

VIDEO SAMPLE

--DAMN RIGHT--

I'M NOT LIKE  
THE REST OF YOU  
SHEEP--

QUIXOTE  
IN A  
MINISKIRT.

I PARTICULAR-  
LY LIKE THE  
SEARING  
POLITICAL  
INSIGHTS OF  
HER LYRICS...

--C'MON--

--SAY IT!

"GENOM SUCKS!"

I  
CAN'T  
HEAR  
YOU--

HMMF.

SO  
THIS IS  
SYLIA'S NEWEST  
ACQUISITION.

VERY  
DYNAMIC  
ARCHITECTURE...!  
--SNORT--

AND NOT  
IN A VERY  
FASHIONABLE  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD,  
EITHER...!

OH  
WELL.

UM...  
HELLO?

SYLIA?  
ANYBODY  
HOME?

SKRAK!

HELLO, ♪  
MACKIE...!

OH,  
UH...  
HI!

COME  
ON IN,  
NENE!



...SLAVING  
AWAY DOWN HERE  
IN THE *DUNGEON*  
ALL DAY...!

HEY,  
CHECK IT OUT...  
SYLIA'S HAD ME  
WORKING ON  
SOMETHING  
NEW AND  
FUNKY!

--NO  
SCHOOL--

--PLUS  
I GET TO  
HANG AROUND  
GORGEOUS  
WOMEN ALL  
THE TIME!

**LIFE IS  
TOUGH--**

--THE HORROR,  
THE HORROR--



...A NEW  
**TOY** FOR  
YOU GUYS  
TO **PLAY**  
WITH!

SYLIA CALLS IT  
A "MOTOROID"...

...BUT  
PRISS PREFERS  
"MOTORSLAVE"

...BUT  
PRISS PREFERS  
"MOTORSLAVE."

I'LL  
STICK TO  
**STUFFED**  
**ANIMALS,**  
THANKS...

SAYS  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT HER,  
I GUESS.

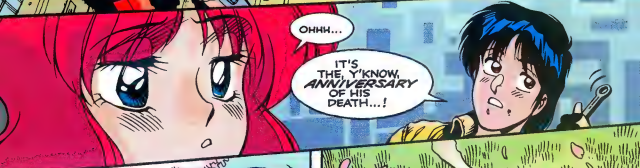




THAT'S  
FOR  
SURE...

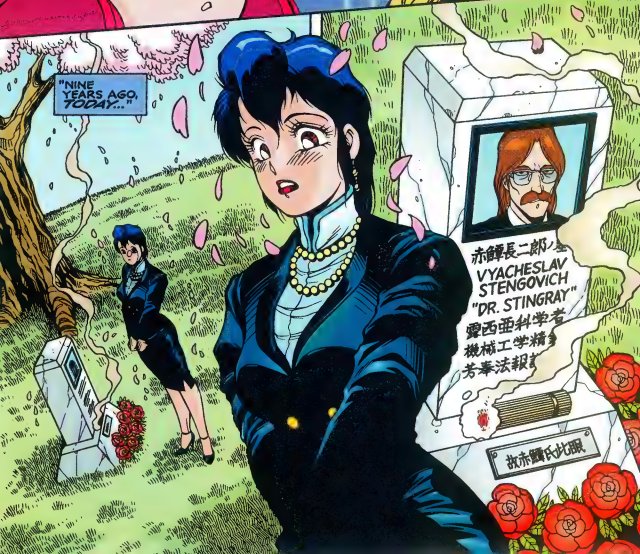
UM...SO...  
WHERE'S YOUR  
SISTER? I'VE GOT  
SOME BAD NEWS  
FOR HER...

OOPS...  
SORRY,  
SYLIA'S, UH,  
"VISITING"  
DAD RIGHT  
NOW.



OHMM...

IT'S  
THE Y'KNOW,  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF HIS  
DEATH...!



"NINE  
YEARS  
AGO,  
TODAY..."

赤蜂長二郎  
VYACHESLAV  
STENGOVICH  
"DR. STINGRAY"  
露西亞科學者  
機械工學精  
考奉法報

故赤蜂氏此照



VIDEO SAMPLE

--PERHAPS THE MOST **SIGNIFICANT** ASPECT OF DR. STINGRAY'S RESEARCH--

--WAS HIS DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOOMERS' FORM OF **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**--

"SYLIA.

"PLEASE PARDON THE **MELODRAMA**...

"... BUT IF YOU ARE HEARING THIS, I HAVE PROBABLY BEEN **MURDERED**."

VIDEO SAMPLE

--WITH A RESULT **CLOSELY ANALOGOUS** TO HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS.

**EXACTLY HOW THIS WAS ACHIEVED REMAINS GENOM'S TRADE SECRET.**

"I MUST LEAVE **SOME** COUNTER TO GENOM'S CERTAIN **ABUSE** OF MY WORK.

"YOU WILL BE THAT COUNTER, SYLIA."

--OF COURSE, WE ARE **FOREVER** INDEBTED TO THE BRILLIANT WORK OF THE LATE **DR. STINGRAY**.

WITHOUT HIS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS, **GENOM** CORPORATION MIGHT NEVER HAVE--

"TO **AID** YOU IN THIS...

"... I HAVE GIVEN YOU AND YOUR BROTHER CERTAIN... **GIFTS**, YOU MIGHT SAY."

GENOM EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN **QUINCY**

VIDEO SAMPLE

LET ME  
ADD...

...DR. STINGRAY  
WAS ~~ALSO~~ A  
CLOSE PERSONAL  
FRIEND...  
--CHOKE--

VIDEO  
SAMPLE

"...AND, IN  
THE EVENT,  
THAT, AH,  
**DIRECT  
ACTION**  
AGAINST  
GENOM IS  
REQUIRED...

"...I'VE ALSO LEFT  
YOU TECHNICAL  
INFORMATION  
REGARDING A  
PROMISING TYPE  
OF **COMBAT  
ARMOR** I'VE BEEN  
DEVELOPING..."

VIDEO  
SAMPLE

EVEN MORE  
ENIGMATIC  
THAN THE  
**MOTIVES**  
OF MEGA-  
TOKYO'S  
"KNIGHT  
SABERS"--

--ARE THE ORIGINS OF THE  
VIGILANTES' UNPRECEDENT-  
ED **POWERED ARMOR**.

VIDEO SAMPLE

NUMEROUS  
CONSPIRACY  
THEORIES HAVE  
ARISEN TO  
EXPLAIN THE  
PRESENCE OF  
THE "KNIGHT  
SABERS"--

--AND WHY  
THEY HOLD  
SUCH AN  
OBVIOUS  
GRUDGE  
AGAINST  
**GENOM**--

--THE "KNIGHT SABERS" ARE NOTHING MORE THAN **TERRORISTS**, CRIMINALS WHO DESERVE TO BE--

差

VIDEO  
SAMPLE

"OH, FATHER..."

"...YOUR UNLIMITED **INTELLECT** CREATED A **TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLE**..."

TERMINATE  
SIMULATION.

"...BUT YOUR **FLAWED JUDGMENT** PLACED IT IN THE HANDS OF **AMORAL THUGS**."

"SO YOU **ALTERED** ME, SO THAT I MIGHT SOMEHOW REDEEM THE **TANGLED MESS** YOU LEFT BEHIND."

"NOW, I'M FORCED TO KILL YOUR FIGURATIVE CHILDREN, THE **BOOMERS**, WHEN THEY RUN WILD..."

"...WHILE THE MEN WHO PROFIT FROM THEIR ABUSE REMAIN FOREVER **OUT OF MY REACH**."

"FATHER, IF I COULD BEAR CHILDREN..."

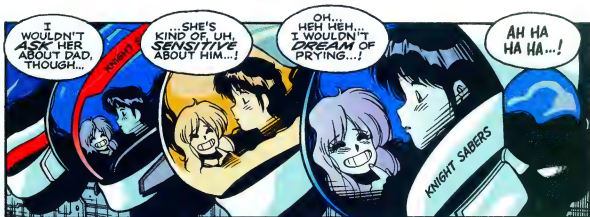
"...I'D WANT TO LEAVE THEM A LESS **HOPELESS** AND **AGONIZING** LEGACY THAN THE ONE YOU LEFT ME."

--EXCERPTS FROM SYLIA STINGRAY'S PRIVATE RECORDS.

WELL, SYLIA **DOES** SEEM TO HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT DAD.

NOT THAT I KNOW WHY...

HMMM... I WONDER WHAT--

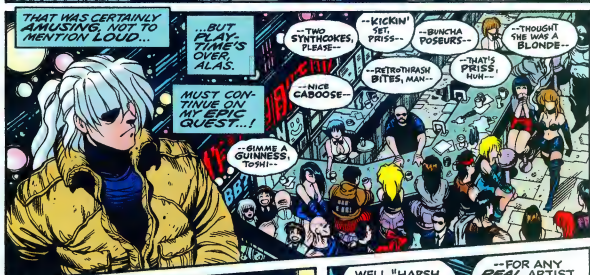


I WOULDN'T ASK HER ABOUT DAD, THOUGH...

...SHE'S KIND OF, UH, SENSITIVE ABOUT HIM...!

OH... HEH HEH... I WOULDN'T DREAM OF PRYING...!

AH HA HA HA...!



THAT WAS CERTAINLY AMUSING, NOT TO MENTION LOUD...

...BUT PLAY-TIME'S OVER, ALAS.

MUST CONTINUE ON MY EPIC QUEST...!

--TWO SYNTHCOOKES, PLEASE--

--KICKIN' SET, PRISS--

--BUNCHA POSEURS--

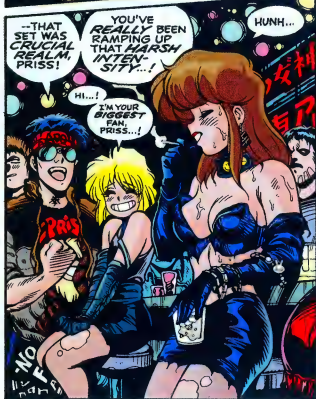
--THOUGHT SHE WAS A BLONDE--

--THAT'S PRISS, HUH--

--RETROTHRASH BITES, MAN--

--NICE CABOOSE--

--GIMME A GUINNESS, TOSHI--



--THAT SET WAS CRUCIAL REALM, PRISS!

YOU'VE REALLY BEEN RAMPING UP THAT HARSH INTENSITY...!

HUNH...

HI...! I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN, PRISS...!



WELL, "HARSH INTENSITY" IS A REQUIREMENT--

--FOR ANY REAL ARTIST IN THIS PATHETIC COMPANY TOWN--

HEY.

HEY, YOU.







I  
WORK  
FOR  
GENOM--  
->Hic<

--WHERE DO  
YOU GET OFF  
DISSIN' EM?

THEY  
SAVED  
THIS  
FRIGGIN'  
CITY!  
->URPP<

島法



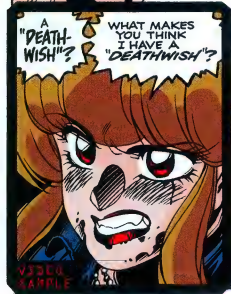
THEY EVEN SAVED  
WHININ' UNGRATEFUL  
LITTLE PIECES OF  
CRAP LIKE YOU!

HOW  
ABOUT  
SHOWIN'  
SOME  
RESPECT,  
HUH?

KLINK  
KLINK



BETTER  
COOL DOWN,  
DICKWEED.



A  
"DEATH-  
WISH"?

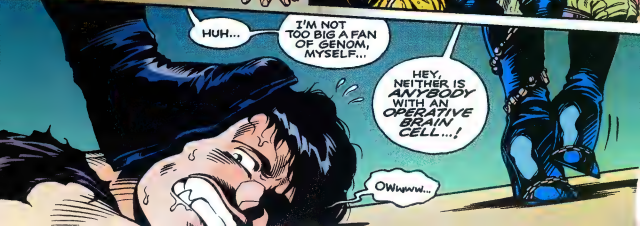
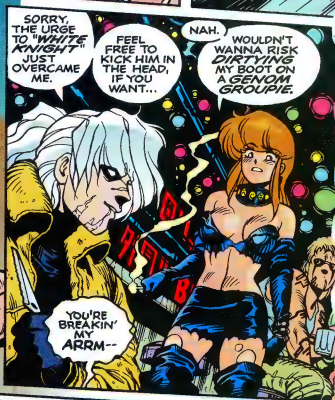
WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK  
I HAVE A  
"DEATHWISH"?



@%&!!?

CUT YOUR  
HEAD OFF,  
BITCH--

VJSD  
SAMPLE



SHOULDN'T  
PULL KNIVES  
ON PEOPLE IN  
MINISKIRTS,  
ACE.

IT'S JUST  
NOT DOVE,  
SEE?

SORRY,  
THE URGE  
TO "WHITE  
KNIGHT"  
JUST  
OVERCAME  
ME.

FEEL  
FREE TO  
KICK HIM IN  
THE HEAD,  
IF YOU  
WANT...

NAH.

WOULDN'T  
WANNA RISK  
DIRTYING  
MY BOOT ON  
A GENOM  
GROUPIE.

OWWWW-!

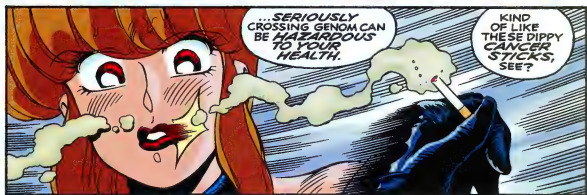
YOU'RE  
BREAKIN'  
MY  
ARM--

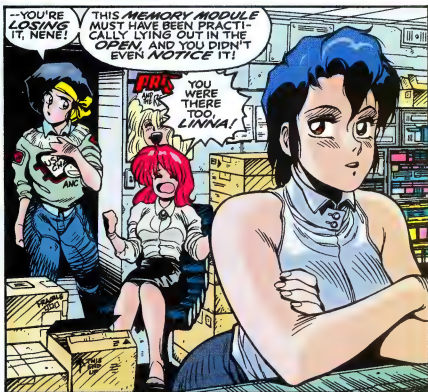
HUH...

I'M NOT  
TOO BIG A FAN  
OF GENOM,  
MYSELF...

HEY,  
NEITHER IS  
ANYBODY  
WITH AN  
OPERATIVE  
BRAIN  
CELL...!

OWWWW...









HA!

I  
CONTRIBUTE  
TO THE KNIGHT  
SABERS WITH  
MY **GOOD  
LOOKS** AND  
**AMAZING  
BRAIN!**

VIDEO  
SAMPLE



--ENOUGH  
UNCONSTRUCTIVE  
**RECRIMINATIONS**  
FOR TODAY,  
LINNA.

NOW,  
NENE...

SO  
THERE!



...AS  
SOON AS YOU  
CAN MANAGE  
IT...

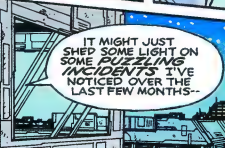
...I'LL NEED  
TO SEE A COPY OF  
THE APPOLICE'S  
**ANALYSIS** OF  
THIS MODULE'S  
CONTENTS.



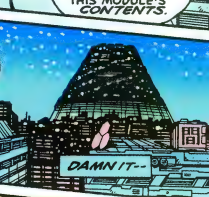
NO  
PROBLEM,  
SYLIA!

I CAN  
DO  
THAT!

♪SNORTE



IT MIGHT JUST  
SHED SOME LIGHT ON  
SOME **PUZZLING  
INCIDENTS** I'VE  
NOTICED OVER THE  
LAST FEW MONTHS--



DAMN IT--



--ANOTHER  
SEIZURE  
STARTING,  
SO SOON  
AFTER THE  
LAST ONE--!

TOO  
SOON--



--BUT  
IT **IS** IRONIC,  
WHEN YOU  
CONSIDER HOW  
**VASHNEVSKAYA**  
ACQUIRED HIS  
PARTICULAR CON-  
DITION--!



--GOT TO GET  
AWAY FROM ANY  
POTENTIAL  
VICTIMS--

HE UNDERWENT  
A MASSIVE  
**NEUROLOGICAL  
ALTERATION,**  
RATHER LIKE OUR  
CREATION, IN  
A WAY...

...AND  
LIKE US, HE  
CERTAINLY  
WASN'T GIVEN,  
**A CHOICE**  
IN THE  
MATTER...

HAHH

HAHH

--NICE, DESERTED  
ALLEYWAY--

--AS GOOD  
A PLACE  
AS ANY--

--TO  
MUTILATE  
MYSELF--

MY, THAT SOUNDS  
ALMOST LIKE  
SYMPATHY,  
OR EVEN  
GUILT!

THAT'S  
RATHER  
SURPRIS-  
ING...

...GIVEN THAT  
OUR **MENTAL  
ARCHITECTURES**  
AREN'T SET UP  
FOR SUCH--

KINDLY  
RESERVE YOUR  
**CONDESCENSION**  
FOR THE ORGANICS,  
PLEASE...

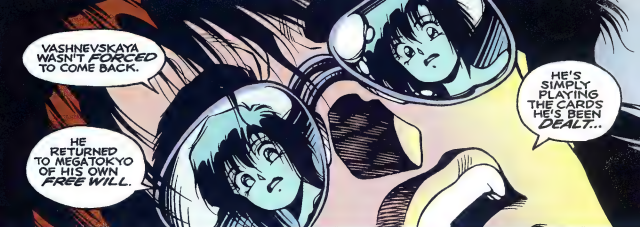
--WOULDN'T MIND THE  
HALLUCINATIONS  
SO MUCH--

--IF THEY WERE  
VISIONS OF  
SOMETHING  
PLEASANT--!

--LIKE, SAY, SCANTILY  
CLAD RETROTHRASH  
SINGERS--

HEY--!

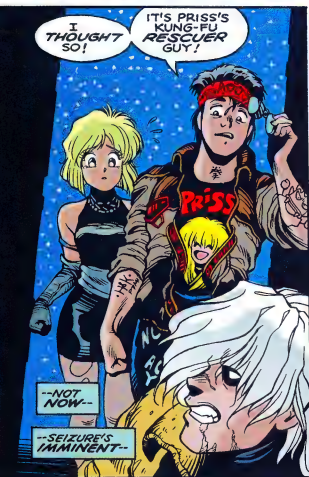
YOU  
OKAY,  
DUDE?



VASHNEVSKAYA  
WASN'T FORCED  
TO COME BACK.

HE  
RETURNED  
TO MEGATOKYO  
OF HIS OWN  
FREE WILL.

HE'S  
SIMPLY  
PLAYING  
THE CARDS  
HE'S BEEN  
DEALT...

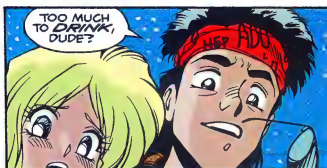


I  
THOUGHT  
SO!

IT'S PRISS'S  
KUNG-FU  
RESCUER  
GUY!

--NOT  
NOW--

--SEIZURE'S  
IMMINENT--



TOO MUCH  
TO DRINK,  
DUDE?

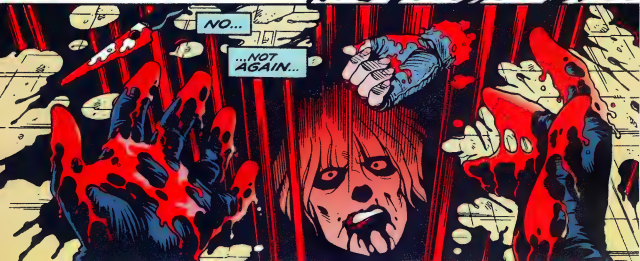


PLEASE--!

GET  
AWAY--!

GET--

AWAY



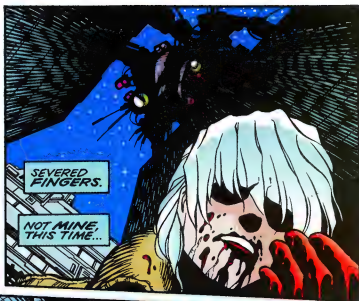
NO...

...NOT  
AGAIN...



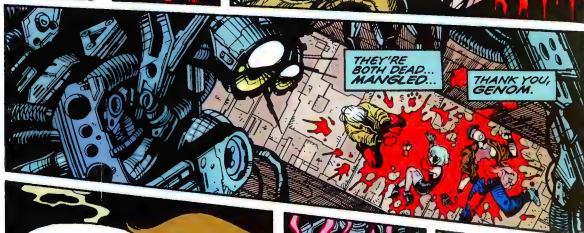
SOME-  
THING  
IN MY  
MOUTH--?

GUCHHK!  
Ptoo=



SEVERED  
FINGERS.

NOT MINE,  
THIS TIME...



THEY'RE  
BOTH DEAD...  
MANGLED...

THANK YOU,  
GENOM.



"AGGRESSIVE  
NAÏVETE,"  
HUH?

POMPOUS  
ASS...!



THE BASTARDS  
COULDN'T SEE  
FIT TO KILL ME  
OUTRIGHT,  
COULD THEY--



HUHN.

"POINTLESSLY  
SELF-  
DESTRUCTIVE  
BEHAVIOR"--

--IS  
TALKING  
TO ME LIKE  
THAT--!





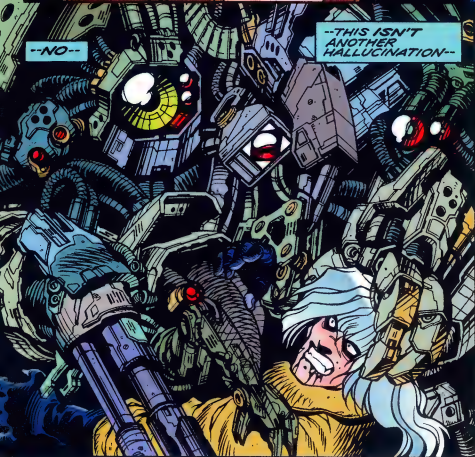
WHAT?

IT'S  
STARTING  
AGAIN?



MESSING WITH  
GENOM'S BAD  
FOR YOUR  
HEALTH,  
IS IT?

LIKE  
HE KNOWS  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
IT!



--NO--

--THIS ISN'T  
ANOTHER  
HALLUCINATION--



--THIS  
IS  
REAL--

UCHHAK

VRRR

KCHAK



WELL,  
MR. "WHITE  
KNIGHT"--

--HERE'S  
TO YOUR  
HEALTH--!

## CHAPTER THREE





MY HEAD HURTS.

I CAN'T SEE A DAMNED THING.

HEY.



HEY, PAL...

A BOOMER IS CROONING IN MY EAR.

I MUST BE IN HELL.

...DO ME A FAVOR, HUH?

**PLIK**

**VREE**

KILL ME.

PLEASE.

NOPE.

NOT YET, ANYWAY.

**KCHAK**

**WHIRRR**

AC-10

THESE FRIGGIN' MECHS MUST HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR ORGANICS, HUH?

I'M NOT HAVING A PRESEIZURE HALLUCINATION THIS TIME...

THESE MACHINES, THE SKORPION'S IMPROVISED SUBUNIT MECHS, ARE REAL, NOT IMAGINARY.

THEY HAVEN'T CANNIBALIZED YOU FOR PARTS YET, I NOTICE.

HEY--!

THE MECHS LOOK RAGGED, PIECED TOGETHER, BARELY FUNCTIONAL...

...LIKE ME...

...BUT EVEN AFTER THREE YEARS...

HOLD ON!

DO THESE THINGS ACTUALLY KNOW YOU?

I CAN STILL RECOGNIZE PARTS OF THE SKORPION'S ORIGINAL FRAME.

--TO INTRODUCE THE FINAL MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM--

--THE PRIDE AND JOY OF VOERUNG-MIKOYAN INTERESSENGE-MEINSCHAFT'S ADVANCED MECHANICS DIVISION--

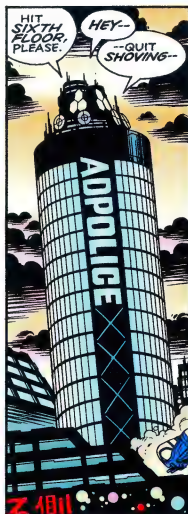
HEY, VASHNEVSKAYA

--THE SKORPION IS ANTHOLOGY INTELLIGENCE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS SELF-REPLICATING RECON/COMBAT MECHANIZED UNIT--

VREEE

...YOU NEVER SAID WE'D BE WORKING WITH A MECH...!





HIT SIXTH FLOOR, PLEASE.

HEY--

--QUIT SHOVING--

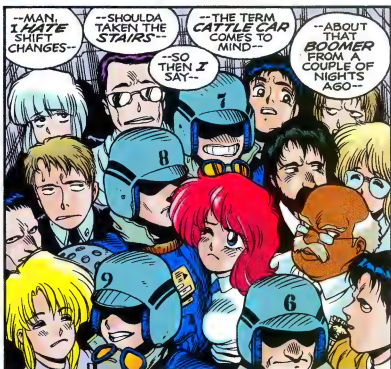


--WHAT'S THE LOAD LIMIT ON THIS THING?

--GOING DOWN, MR. TYLER?

--SO THEN HE SAYS--

--EVER TELL YOU I'M CLAUSTRO-PHOBIC?



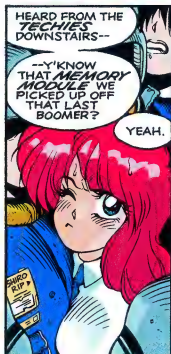
--MAN, I HATE SHIFT CHANGES--

--SHOULDA TAKEN THE STAIRS--

--THE TERM CATTLE CAR COMES TO MIND--

--ABOUT THAT BOOMER FROM A COUPLE OF NIGHTS AGO--

--SO THEN I SAY--



HEARD FROM THE TECHIES DOWNSTAIRS--

--Y'KNOW THAT MEMORY MODULE WE PICKED UP OFF THAT LAST BOOMER?

YEAH.



TURNS OUT THOSE GEEKS IN COMP ANALYSIS FINALLY DECRYPTED THE DAMN THING, MAN.

WELL, WHOOP-DEE FRIGGIN'-DOO.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.



HERE WE ARE--FIFTH FLOOR, COMP ANALYSIS--

HOLD THE DOOR, PLEASE!

UH, THIS IS MY FLOOR...!



THE SKORPION 19 WAS THE LAST GASP OF FINE EUROPEAN MECHATRONICS, BEFORE GENOM'S BOOMER TECHNOLOGY FINALLY DROVE THE EUROS OUT OF THE FIELD.

IT WAS DESIGNED AS AN ANTHOLOGY INTELLIGENCE, ABLE TO DISPERSE ITS LIMITED AWARENESS THROUGH A JURY-RIGGED NETWORK OF SUBUNIT MECHS AND COMPUTERS.

COMPARED TO THE HUMAN-DERIVED COMPLEXITY OF GENOM'S BOOMERS, THE SKORPION IS CRUDE AND RATHERETIC, A BARELY COGNITIVE HEAP OF OBSOLETE MACHINERY.

BUT IT'S ALMOST UNBEATABLE AT THE FEW SPECIALIZED TASKS IT WAS BUILT TO HANDLE.

A MECHANICAL IDIOT SAVANT, YOU MIGHT SAY.

--VASHNEVSKAYA, YOUR COMLINK IMPLANT SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE SKORPION'S ENCRYPTED TRANSMISSIONS NOW.

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

THE SKORPION COMMUNICATES VIA "AUDIO SAMPLES" TAKEN FROM VARIOUS MEDIA SOURCES.

THIS MIGHT BE A BIT JAR-RING, AT FIRST...

NAH, NOT REALLY.

IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE REALLY PRETENTIOUS AUDIO-FORMAT PERFORMANCE ART...

DON'T CHOO KNOW IT? 1950?

THREE YEARS AGO, FEELING THE ECONOMIC BITE FROM GENOM, A CON-SORTIUM OF AILING EUROPEAN COR-PORATIONS HIRED MY EXTRACTION TEAM.

C'MON, MAN...

WE CAME TO MEGATOKYO, THE VERY LION'S DEN, TO SNAG ONE OF GENOM'S "INTELLECTUAL ASSETS."

...HAVE SOME SYMPATHY, HUH? I'M NOT LIKE THESE IDIOT MECHS...

...I'M A SENTIENT BEING LIKE YOU, DAMN IT...

ALAS, SOMEONE HAD LEAKED WORD OF OUR DARING MISSION TO OUR TARGET.

GENOM, WARNED OF OUR EVIL IN-TENT, LAUNCHED A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.

COMBAT BOOMERS, SIMILAR TO MY DECAPITATED FRIEND HERE, AMBUSHED US IN TOKYO BAY.

THE HUMAN MEMBERS OF THE TEAM FACED CERTAIN DEATH.

BUT THE SKORPION HAD ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED TO MEGA-TOKYO, WEEKS AHEAD OF OUR ARRIVAL.

HOPING FOR SOME POSTHUMOUS REVENGE, I STARTED TO TRANSMIT THE SKORPION'S ACTI-VATION CODE.

MAYBE THE MECH COULD DO SOME DAMAGE TO GENOM ON ITS OWN.



BUT BEFORE  
I COULD  
"LET SLIP  
THE DOGS  
OF WAR"--

--GENOM  
INTERRUPTED  
ME WITH A  
TRANSMISSION  
OF ITS OWN--

HEY,  
NENE...

MAN, YOU GUYS  
ARE JUST TOO  
PAROCHIAL.

YOU GOTTA CULTIVATE  
AN APPRECIATION OF THE  
PROGRAMMING TECHNIQUES OF OTHER  
CULTURES, SEE?

GIVE IT  
A REST,  
SIMMONS...

..WHAT'CHA  
DOING DOWN  
HERE,  
IN THE LAND OF  
COMPUTER  
GEEKS...?

COMP/  
ANALYSIS

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU COULDN'T  
FIGURE OUT THIS  
MODULE'S CODING  
STRUCTURE...

IT'S AN OBVIOUS  
VARIANT OF AN OLD  
GERMAN PROGRAMMING  
LANGUAGE THAT USED  
TO BE ALL THE RAGE  
IN EUROPEAN MECH  
DESIGN.

SIMPLE  
STUFF,  
REALLY.

YEAH,  
WELL,  
WHAT'S ON THE  
DAMN  
THING?

DISK TEK HR 120  
HIGH-DENSITY  
OPTICAL STORAGE  
MEMORY MODULE

LOOKS LIKE A  
WEIRD JUMBLE OF FILES  
ON THE ORIGIN OF  
BOOMER ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE...  
ANCIENT HISTORY,  
REALLY.

ANYWAY,  
YOU GUYS CAN  
CHECK IT OUT,  
I'VE GOT IT  
DOWNLOAD-  
ING NOW.

JUST LET ME KNOW IF  
YOU GET STYMIED  
AGAIN BY SUCH  
SIMPLE CRAP.

CLEARLY,  
NO ONE  
AROUND HERE  
COMES CLOSE  
TO MY LEVEL  
OF SKILL...

THAT'S  
WHAT YOU  
THINK,  
JERK...!



ONCE AGAIN,  
I'M FACING  
A SLAYERING  
HORDE OF  
COMBAT  
BOOMERS.

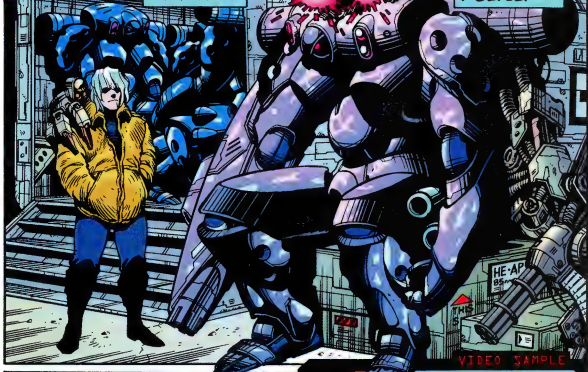
BUT THIS  
TIME, THEY'LL  
BE ON MY SIDE.

I HOPE.

TWO NIGHTS AGO,  
THE SKORPION TELLS  
ME, A HOSTILE  
BOOMER RIPPED OFF  
SOME VITAL  
ELEMENT OF THE  
MECH'S ANTHOLOGY  
INTELLIGENCE.

SOME  
MEMORY  
MODULE,  
STUFFED  
WITH DATA  
CRITICAL  
TO OUR DAR-  
ING MISSION.

EVENTUALLY,  
THE MODULE  
ENDED UP IN  
THE HANDS OF  
MEGATOKYO'S  
HAPLESS  
ADVANCED  
POLICE.



NOW WE'RE PRES-  
SING A STOLEN  
COMBAT BOOMER  
INTO SERVICE TO  
HELP RECOVER IT.

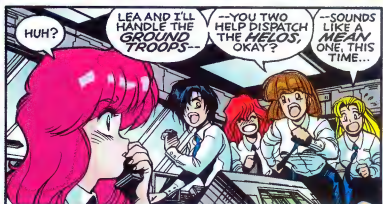
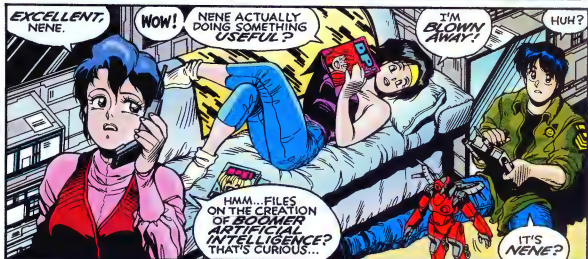
NOTHING'S  
MORE PLEASINGLY  
IRONIC  
THAN USING  
A GENOM  
PRODUCT  
AGAINST ITS  
MAKERS...

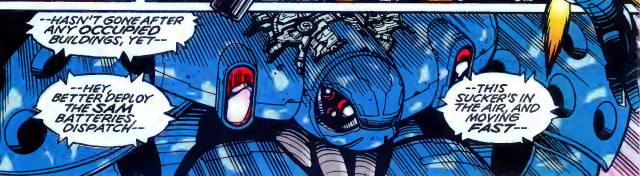
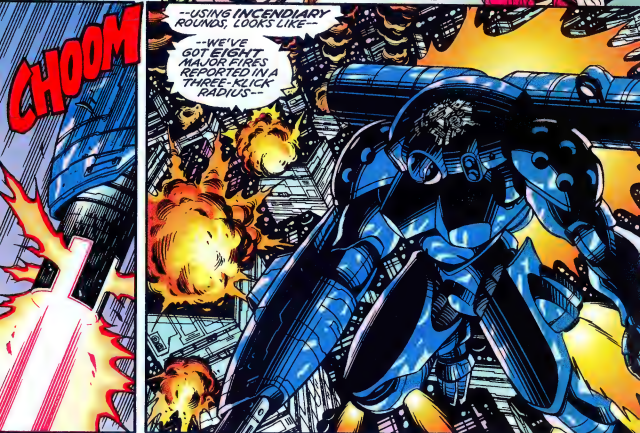
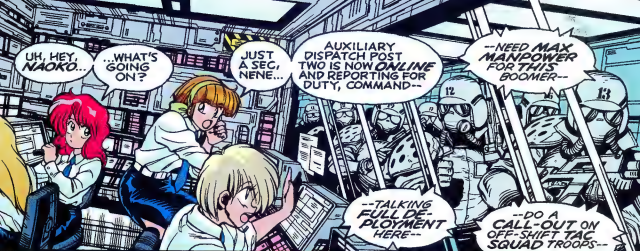
VIDEO SAMPLE

--PUTTING DOWN A DO-  
MESTIC INSURGENCY?  
PLANNING SOME TERRITO-  
RIAL EXPANSION BY FORCE?

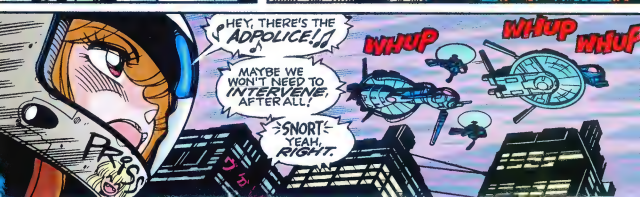
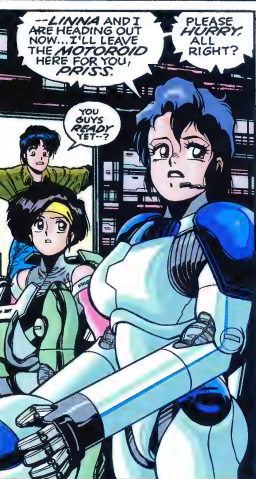
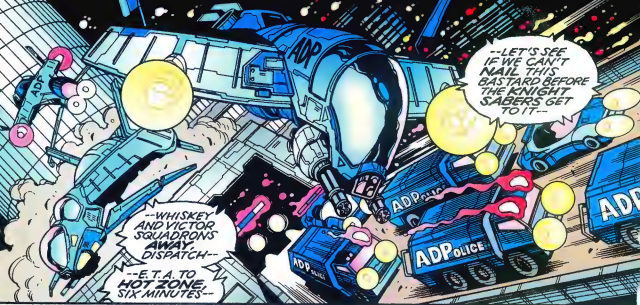


OR JUST LOOKING TO SPICE UP YOUR  
JANE'S DAY MILITARY PARADE?  
WELL, THE HEAVY-DUTY BU-13C  
COMBAT BOOMER IS JUST WHAT--













--NO SIGN OF THE BOGEY HERE, DISPATCH--

## EDITORIAL

VIDEO SAMPLE  
--THE RECORD OF THE ADPOLICE SHOWS THE FOLLY OF A PURELY REACTIVE APPROACH TO THE BOOMER PROBLEM.

CLEARLY, A MORE THOUGHTFUL AND PREVENTIVE RESPONSE IS CALLED FOR--

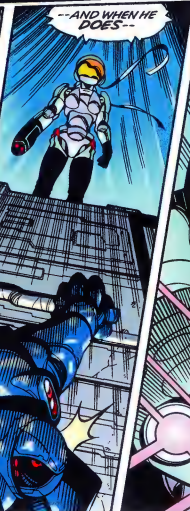
--THIS SECTOR'S CLEAN, DISPATCH--

--IT'S WEIRD FOR A BOOMER TO START PLAYING BASHFUL LIKE THIS--

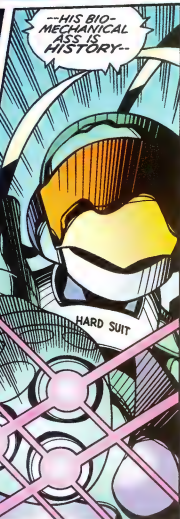
WHUP-WHUP-WHUP



HEY, HE'S BOUND TO SHOW HIS UGLY EXCUSE FOR A FACE SOONER OR LATER--

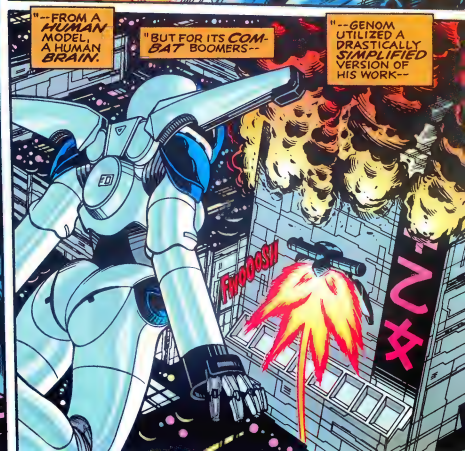
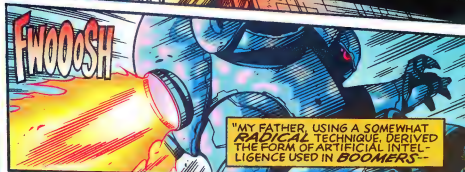


--AND WHEN HE DOES--



--HIS BIO-MECHANICAL ASS IS HISTORY--

HARD SUIT

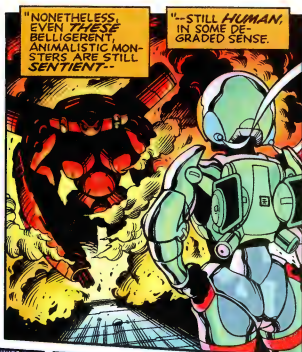


"--FAR MORE *UNSTABLE*, BUT MUCH CHEAPER TO *MASS PRODUCE*."

"NONETHELESS, EVEN *THESE* BELLIGERENT, ANIMALISTIC MONSTERS ARE STILL *SENTIENT*--"

"--STILL *HUMAN*, IN SOME DE-GRATED SENSE."

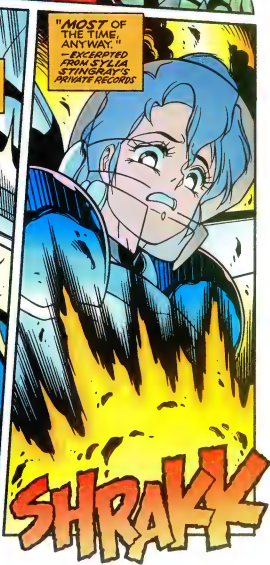
"SO WHEN WE MUST *STOP* ONE OF THESE TWISTED, PATHETIC CREATURES--"



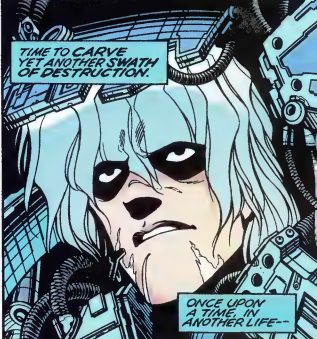
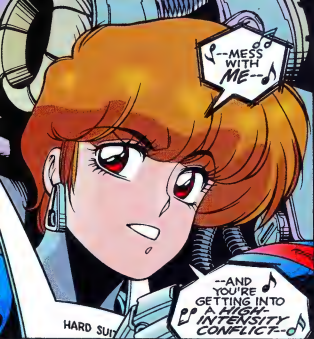
"--I TRY TO MAKE THEIR *END*--"

"--AS *QUICK* AND AS *MERCIFUL* AS POSSIBLE."

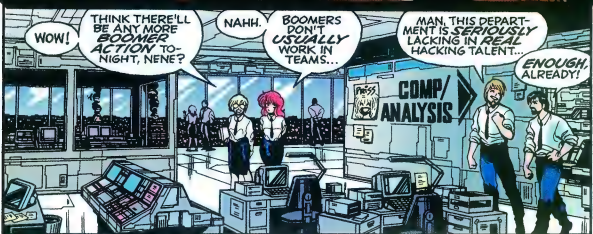
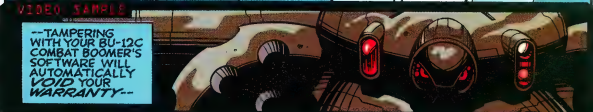
"*MOST* OF THE TIME, ANYWAY."  
--EXCERPTED FROM SYLLIA STINGSBAY'S PRIVATE RECORDS

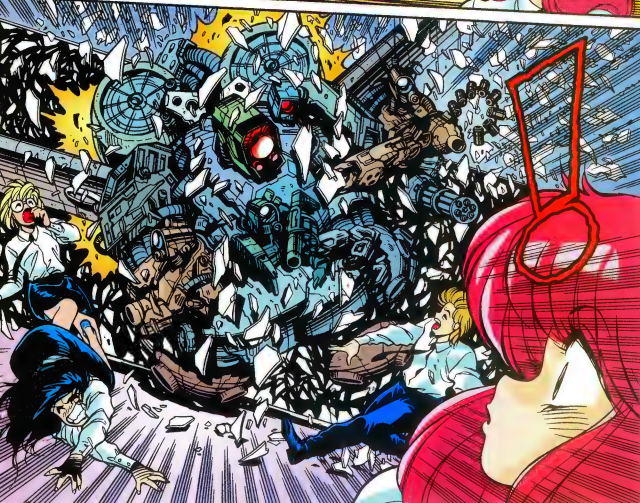
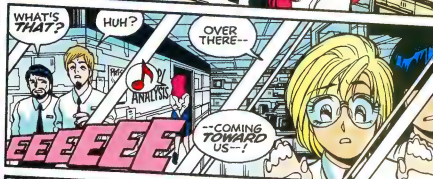
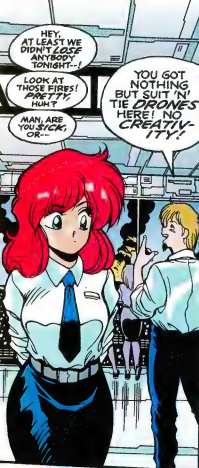


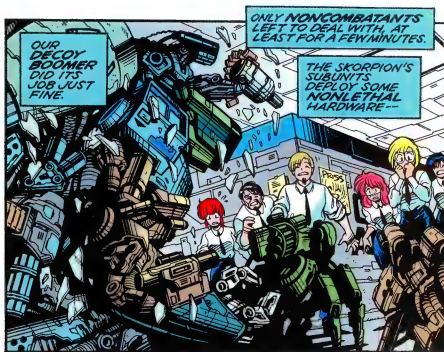












OUR  
DECOY  
BOOMER  
DID ITS  
JOB JUST  
FINE.

ONLY NONCOMBATANTS  
LEFT TO DEAL WITH, AT  
LEAST FOR A FEW MINUTES.

THE SKORPION'S  
SUBUNITS  
DEPLOY SOME  
NONLETHAL  
HARDWARE--

--NERVE GEL,  
ELECTROSHOCK  
AND KINETIC  
STUN ROUNDS--



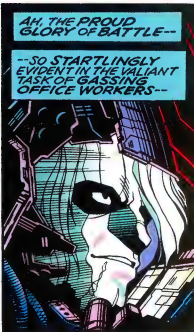
POONT

--PLUS ENOUGH  
SAVORY  
PEPPERGAS  
TO KEEP THESE  
CIVVIES DOWN  
AND OUT  
UNTIL WE LEAVE.



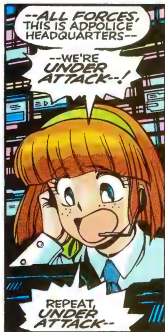
AH, THE PROUD  
GLORY OF BATTLE--

--SO STARTLINGLY  
EVIDENT IN THE VALIANT  
TASK OF GASSING  
OFFICE WORKERS--



--ALL FORCES,  
THIS IS ADPOLICE  
HEADQUARTERS--

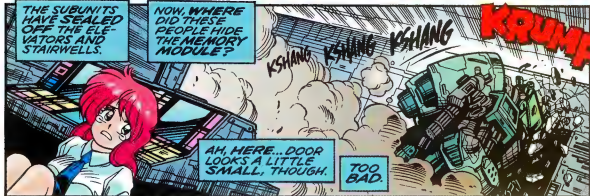
--WE'RE  
UNDER  
ATTACK--!



REPEAT,  
UNDER  
ATTACK--

THE SUBUNITS  
HAVE SEALED  
OFF THE ELE-  
VATORS AND  
STAIRWELLS.

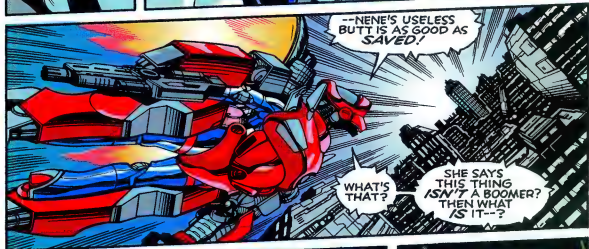
NOW, WHERE  
DID THESE  
PEOPLE HIDE  
THE MEMORY  
MODULE?

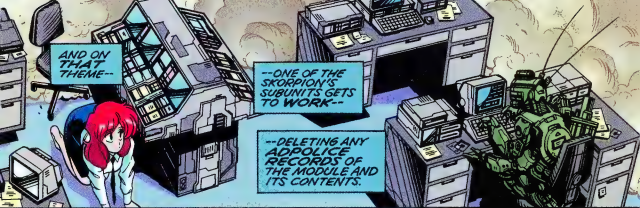


AH, HERE... DOOR  
LOOKS A LITTLE  
SMALL, THOUGH.

TOO  
BAD.



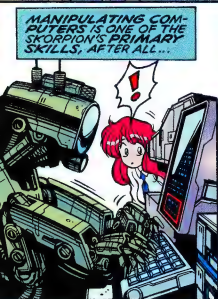




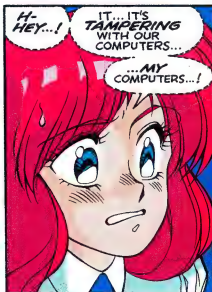
AND ON THAT THEME--

--ONE OF THE SKORPION'S SUBUNITS GETS TO WORK--

--DELETING ANY ADPOLICE RECORDS OF THE MODULE AND ITS CONTENTS.



MANIPULATING COMPUTERS IS ONE OF THE SKORPION'S PRIMARY SKILLS, AFTER ALL...



H-HEY...!

IT... IT'S TAMPERING WITH OUR COMPUTERS...

...MY COMPUTERS...!

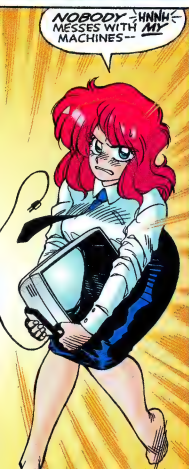


HIC... SEE, TH' ADPOLICE... COMPUTER SYSTEMS... 'R MY PERSONAL PLAYGROUND...

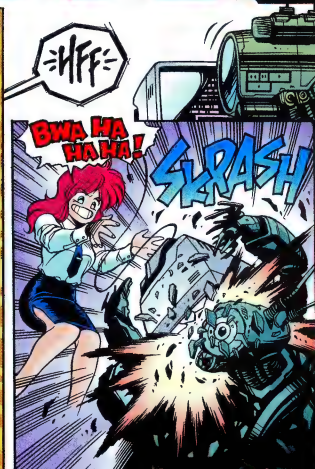
URP

GIMME A BREAK...!

VIDEO SAMPLE



NOBODY MESSSES WITH MY MACHINES--



HFF

BWA HA HA HA!

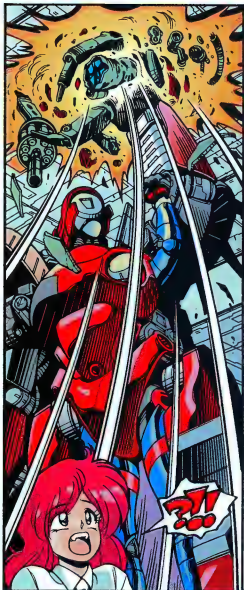
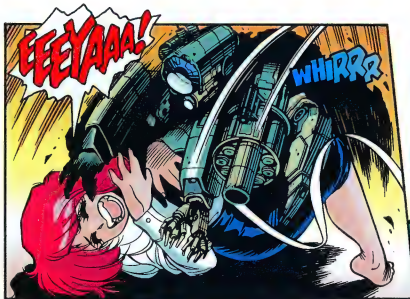
SCRASH



HOW'S THAT, CREEP--

HUH?

VREE



CHALK UP  
ANOTHER  
TIMELY  
RESCUE!

WHAT  
THE  
HELL?

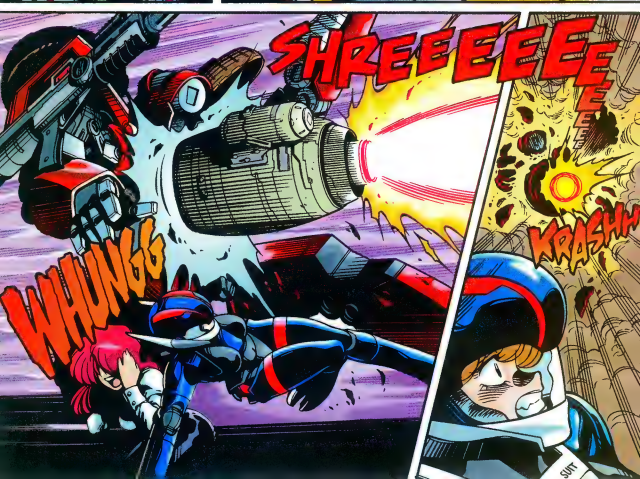
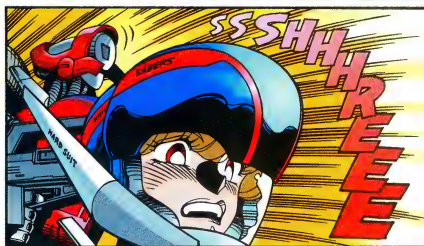
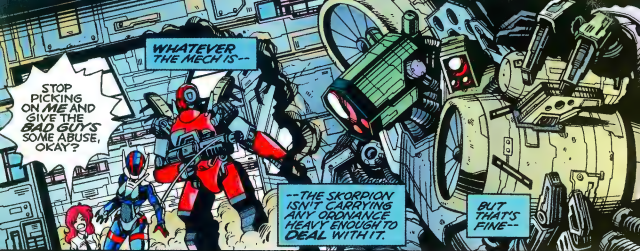
ALWAYS PLAYING  
THE DAMSEL IN  
DISTRESS,  
HUH, NENE?

THAT'S  
DEFINITE-  
LY NOT  
APOLICE-  
ISSUE  
HARDWARE!

SHUT  
UP!!

THERE'S A  
BIGGER ONE  
BACK THERE!







HUH?

KLANG



ALL  
RIGHT...!



--WELL, THAT'S ONE LESS  
MYSTERY MECH.

BETTER BAIL,  
THE ADDPOLICE  
GUNSHIPS ARE  
ALMOST HERE--

KSHANG



OKAY,  
DICK-  
WEED--

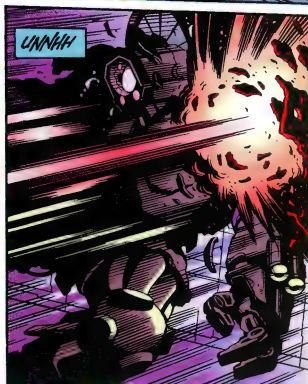
--GET A  
TASTE OF  
THIS--

=KOFF=

KSHANG KSHANG



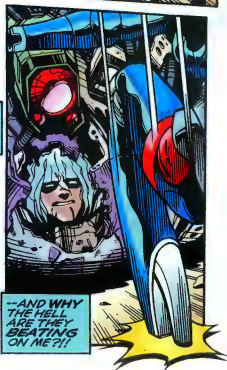
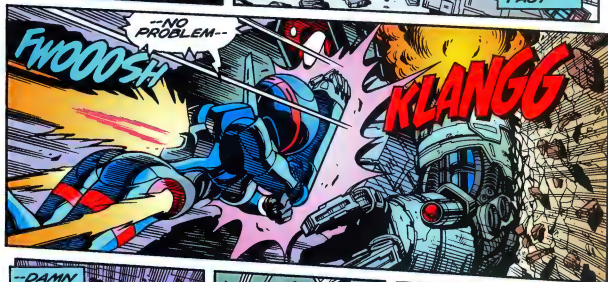
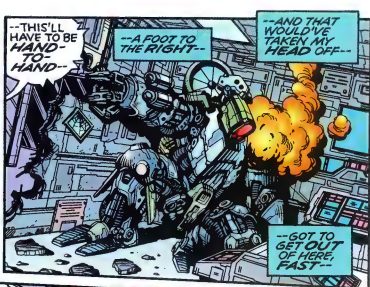
CHOOM



UNNNH



--WHAT  
THE HELL  
WAS  
THAT--?







LISTEN UP--

--ONE MOVE AND I BLOW YOU AWAY--

HUH?



THE SKORPION SAYS THIS IS A KNIGHT SABER--

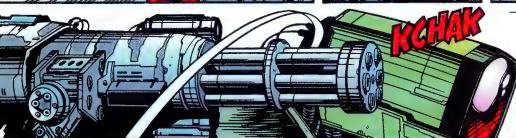
YOU--?!

VRENE



ME?

--WHATEVER THAT MIGHT BE.



KCHAK

I'LL WORRY ABOUT THIS LITTLE PUZZLE LATER.



VARTTT

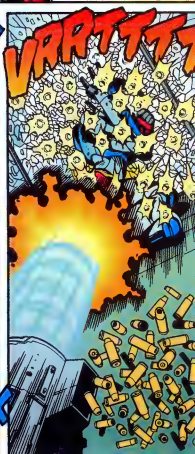


SPAK SPAK SPAK

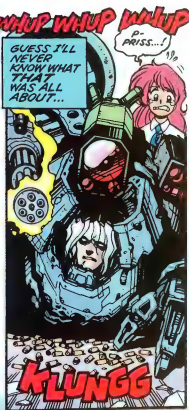
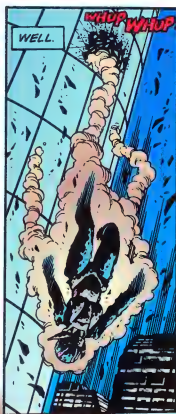
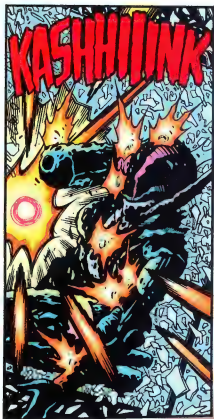
NUH

NUH

SPAK SPAK SPAK



VARTTT



## CHAPTER FOUR



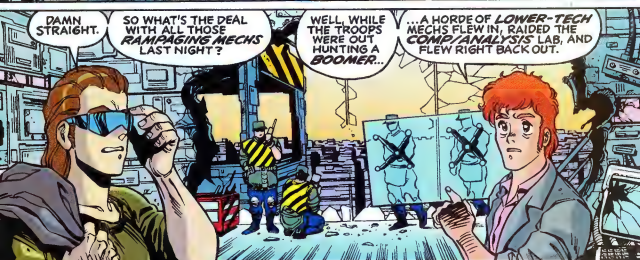




--LOOK  
AT  
THIS!

I TAKE  
*ONE* FRIGGIN'  
NIGHT OFF, AND  
EVERYTHING  
JUST GOES TO  
*HELL!*

MORE PROOF  
THAT YOU'RE THE  
*HEART* AND *SOUL*  
OF THE ADPOLICE,  
LEON.



DAMN  
STRAIGHT.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL  
WITH ALL THOSE  
*RAMPAGING MECHS*  
LAST NIGHT?

WELL, WHILE  
THE TROOPS  
WERE OUT  
HUNTING A  
*BOOMER...*

...A HORDE OF *LOWER-TECH*  
*MECHS* FLEW IN, RAIDED THE  
*COM/ANALYSIS* LAB, AND  
FLEW RIGHT BACK OUT.

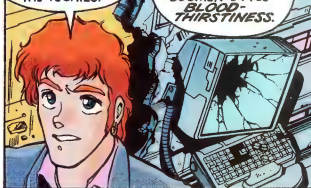


MAN, *THIS*  
WILL DO WONDERS  
FOR OUR  
REPUTATION...!

NONE OF  
OUR PEOPLE GOT  
*KILLED*,  
RIGHT?

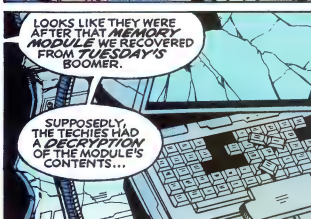
NO *FATALITIES*,  
JUST SOME MINOR  
INJURIES AMONG  
THE TECHIES.

*THESE*  
MECHS SHOWED  
A DEFINITE LACK OF  
*BOOMER-STYLE*  
*BLOOD*  
*THIRSTINESS*.



LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE  
AFTER THAT *MEMORY*  
*MODULE* WE RECOVERED  
FROM *TUESDAY'S*  
*BOOMER*.

SUPPOSEDLY,  
THE TECHIES HAD  
A *DECRYPTION*  
OF THE *MODULE'S*  
CONTENTS...





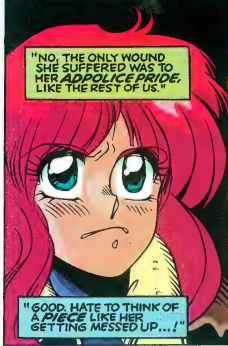
"...BUT THERE'S NO *TRACE* OF IT NOW."

"OUR *GUESTS* TOOK THE TIME TO WIPE IT FROM OUR COMPUTERS, APPARENTLY."



"IN FACT, YOUR GIRLFRIEND *NENE* SPOTTED A MECH MESSING AROUND AT A TERMINAL..."

"DAMN! *NENE* WASN'T HURT, WAS SHE?"



"NO, THE ONLY WOUND SHE SUFFERED WAS TO HER *ADPOLICE PRIDE*, LIKE THE REST OF US."

"GOOD. HATE TO THINK OF A *PIECE* LIKE HER GETTING MESSED UP..."



"WELL, SPEAKING OF *PIECES*, LEON..."

"...DID ANYONE TELL YOU THAT A *KNIGHT SABER* DROPPED BY TO TUSSLE WITH THE MECHS?"

"YEAH, AND GOT HERSELF *MINIGUNNED* TO PIECES, I HEARD."

"THAT'S ONE LESS *VIGILANTE BABE* IN HIGH-HEELED ARMOR, HUH?"



HARD TO SAY, WORD IS, SOME KIND OF *CANDY APPLE RED* MECH FLEW OFF WITH THE BODY...

ALSO EVADING OUR POOR *HELO JOCKEYS*, OF COURSE.

MAN, THIS HAS BEEN ONE *WRETCHED* WEEK FOR THE *ADPOLICE*...

...HELL, IT'S BEEN A *WRETCHED* WEEK FOR PRETTY MUCH *EVERY BODY*...

THEY'RE *BADLY* OVEREXTENDED, QUINCY.

JUST UP YOUR OFFER BY, SAY, FIVE *YUAN* A SHARE PLUS SOME MUNICIPAL BONDS...

...AND YOU'LL OUTBID THEM *SAFELY* AND WITHOUT *EXCESS*, OKAY?



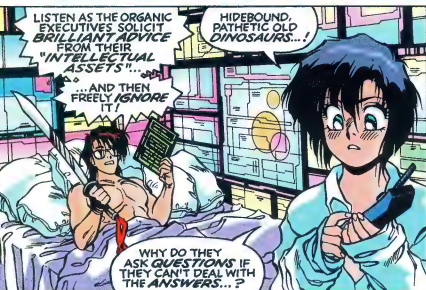


WITNESS  
THE PROCESS  
OF **DECISION  
MAKING**  
AT MIGHTY  
**GENOM!**

FINE,  
QUINCY.  
YOU'RE THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
CHAIRMAN,  
I'M JUST THE  
**STRATEGIC  
ADVISOR.**

YOU CAN  
**LISTEN TO**  
MY "LEARNED  
COUNSEL," OR  
JUST  
**DISREGARD**  
IT.

THE  
**DECISION'S**  
**YOURS.**



LISTEN AS THE ORGANIC  
EXECUTIVES SOLICIT  
**BRILLIANT ADVICE**  
FROM THEIR  
"INTELLECTUAL  
ASSETS"...

HIDEBOUND,  
PATHETIC OLD  
**DINOSAURS...**!

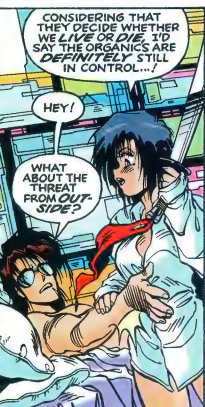
...AND THEN  
**FREELY IGNORE**  
IT!

WHY DO THEY  
ASK **QUESTIONS** IF  
THEY CAN'T DEAL WITH  
THE **ANSWERS...**?



OH, IT'S JUST A **HUMAN**  
THING. THEY HAVE TO MAKE  
A **TOKEN DECISION** OR  
TWO ON THEIR OWN...

...JUST TO  
**REASSURE** THEM-  
SELVES THAT THEY'RE  
STILL IN **CONTROL...**



CONSIDERING THAT  
THEY DECIDE WHETHER  
WE **LIVE OR DIE**, I'D  
SAY THE ORGANICS ARE  
**DEFINITELY** STILL  
IN **CONTROL...**!

HEY!

WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
THREAT  
FROM **OUT-  
SIDE?**



AS IN **VASHNEVSKAYA**  
AND HIS ADORABLE LITTLE  
MECH? **GET SERIOUS...**

HEY,  
THEY'VE  
RETRIEVED  
THAT **PESKY**  
**MODULE...**

...NO  
DOUBT THEY'VE  
PREPPED TONS  
OF **NASTY**  
HARDWARE...



...AND ARE ON  
THE VERGE OF A  
**PAROXYSM OF**  
**APOCALYPTIC**  
**MAYHEM!**

EITHER  
THAT, OR  
THEY'RE SITTING  
AROUND DOING  
**NOTHING.**



CAN'T...  
STAND IT...  
ANY LONGER...

...COME ON,  
YOU  
BASTARD...

...THE END  
IS NEAR.

AT LAST.

...KILL  
ME...

...KILL ME  
NOW...

THREE YEARS AGO, GENOM MESSILY  
INTERRUPTED MY ILL-FATED  
HEADHUNTING MISSION, FIRST BY  
DEPLOYING COMBAT BOOMERS...

...THEN BY NAILING MY TEAM WITH  
TRANSMISSIONS FROM A "PULSE  
WEAPON," AN ANTIPERSONNEL  
DEVICE THAT USES ELECTRO-  
MAGNETIC FIELDS TO DISRUPT  
HUMAN NEURAL ACTIVITY.

CONSPIRACY THEORISTS SAY THIS LITTLE TOY DATES  
BACK TO THE OLD SOVIET UNION. THAT'S SOMEWHAT  
IRONIC, GIVEN MY RUSSIAN ETHNIC HYYPHEN...

I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO  
ESCAPE THE TOKYO AM-  
BUSH UNSCATHED...

...OR SO I  
THOUGHT.

...SPRAY  
SOME  
GRAY...

EIGHT MONTHS  
AGO, I LEARNED  
OTHERWISE.

TURNED OUT THAT  
MY TEMPORAL LOBE  
WAS RIDDLED WITH  
THOUSANDS OF  
MICROLESIONS.

DAMNEDEST  
THING MY  
NEUROLOGIST  
HAD EVER SEEN.

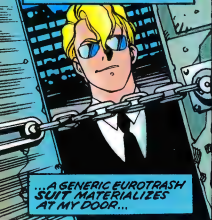
SOME KEY WORDS  
USED IN HIS  
DIAGNOSIS WERE  
MALIGNANT,  
INOPERABLE,  
PROGRESSIVE,  
AND FATAL.

I WOULD SOON  
EXPERIENCE BLACK-  
OUTS, SEIZURES,  
UNCONTROLLABLE  
ATTACKS OF RAGE...

...OR, IN THE  
"JARGON,"  
"COMPLEX  
PARTIAL  
TEMPORAL  
LOBE  
SEIZURES..."

"...ACCOMPANIED  
BY EPISODIC  
DYSCONTROL."  
NICE PHRASE,  
THAT.

CUT TO: TWO WEEKS AGO  
TONIGHT, JUST AFTER  
MY EVENING DOSE OF  
ACETAZOLIMIDE AND  
CARBAMAZEPINE...



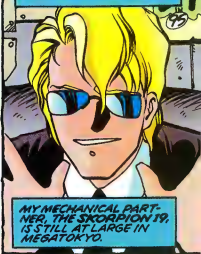
...A GENERIC EUROTRASH  
SUIT MATERIALIZES  
AT MY DOOR...

...LIKE A PARTICULARLY  
NASTY PHARMACEUTICAL  
SIDE EFFECT. THE SUIT SAYS  
HE HAILS FROM MY FORMER  
EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS...

...COME ON,  
DOCTOR JACK...



HE CLAIMS THAT MY OLD  
MISSION IS STILL VIABLE.



MY MECHANICAL PART-  
NER, THE SKORPION 19,  
IS STILL AT LARGE IN  
MEGATOKYO.

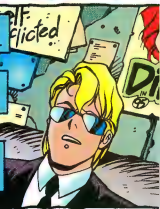
HIS SUPERIORS ARE AWARE OF MY  
SADLY WORSENING CONDITION...



...PERHAPS, IF I WERE TO  
COMPLETE MY THREE-  
YEAR-OLD ASSIGNMENT...

...THEY MIGHT  
BE ABLE TO  
HELP ME OUT.

DANGLE THAT  
SLENDER THREAD OF  
HOPE, EUROWEASEL.



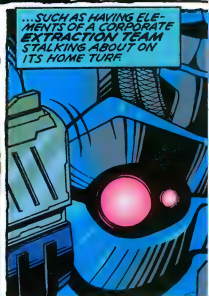
BUT, OF COURSE I KNOW  
THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE  
NO LONGER IN ANY CON-  
DITION TO CONTEMPLATE  
SUCH A BOLD MOVE.



NO, THIS SUIT IS REALLY  
FROM GENOM. AND  
GENOM, IT WOULD  
SEEM, DOESN'T LIKE  
LOOSE ENDS...



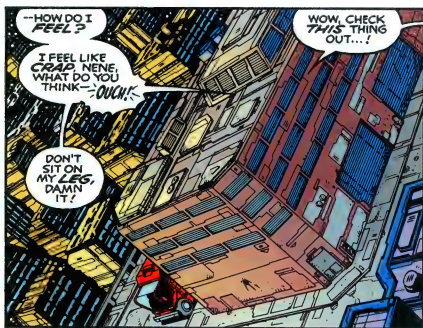
...SUCH AS HAVING ELE-  
MENTS OF A CORPORATE  
EXTRACTION TEAM  
STALKING ABOUT ON  
ITS HOME TURF



**BUH  
KOOM**

NO, GENOM  
WOULD PREFER  
A NICE, SOLID  
RESOLUTION  
TO THE MATTER...





--HOW DO I  
FEEL?

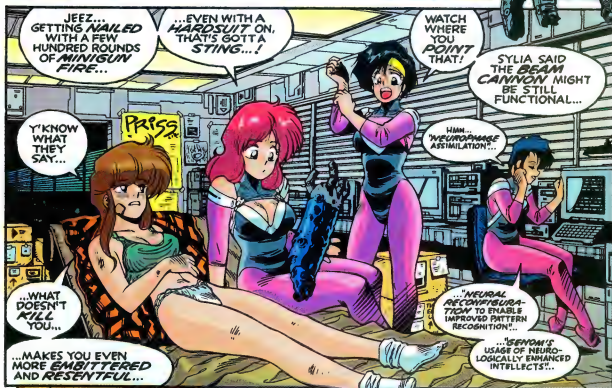
I FEEL LIKE  
CRAP NENE,  
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK--

--OUCH!--

DON'T  
SIT ON  
MY LEG,  
DAMN  
IT!

WOW, CHECK  
THIS THING  
OUT...!

KEEPING A SOUVENIR  
OF YOUR GALLING  
DEFEAT, HUH,  
PRISS?



JEEZ...  
GETTING NAILED  
WITH A FEW  
HUNDRED ROUNDS  
OF MINIGUN  
FIRE...

...EVEN WITH A  
HARDSUIT ON,  
THAT'S GOTTA  
STING...!

WATCH  
WHERE  
YOU  
POINT  
THAT!

SYLIA SAID  
THE BEAM  
CANNON MIGHT  
BE STILL  
FUNCTIONAL...

Y'KNOW  
WHAT  
THEY  
SAY...

HIIM...  
"NEUROPHAGE  
ASSIMILATION"...

...WHAT  
DOESN'T  
KILL  
YOU...

...NEURAL  
RECONFIGURA-  
TION TO ENABLE  
IMPROVED PATTERN  
RECOGNITION?...

...MAKES YOU EVEN  
MORE EMBITTERED  
AND RESENTFUL...

...SEYOM'S  
USAGE OF NEURO-  
LOGICALLY ENHANCED  
INTELLECTS?...

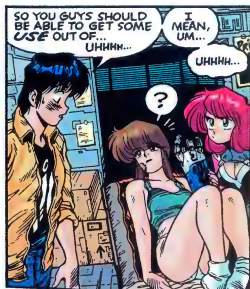


THAT'D BE  
LIKE GETTING  
HIT BY A  
BASEBALL  
BAT OVER  
EVERY INCH  
OF YOUR  
BODY...!

NAHH...

...IT'D BE MORE  
LIKE GETTING  
HIT BY A  
POOL CUE,  
I'D SAY...





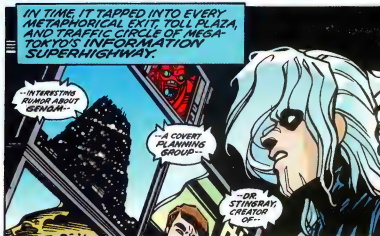


MY MECHANICAL FRIEND, THE SKORPION 19, SPENT THE LAST THREE YEARS IN AN ORGY OF INFORMATION GATHERING.

IT CONDUCTED ENDLESS HOURS OF AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE WITH ITS SUB-UNIT MECHS.



IT MONITORED EVERY CONCEIVABLE MEDIA OUTLET, FROM MAIN-STREAM NEWS FEEDS TO ANARCHIST BULLETIN BOARDS.

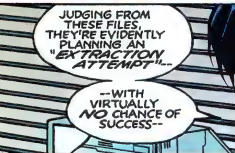


IN TIME, IT TAPPED INTO EVERY METAPHORICAL EXIT, TOLL PLAZA, AND TRAFFIC CIRCLE OF MEGA-TOKYO'S INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY.

--INTERESTING RUMOR ABOUT GENOM--

--A COVERT PLANNING GROUP--

--DR. STINGRAY, CREATOR OF--

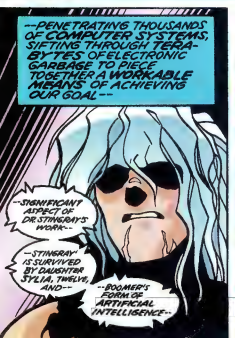


JUDGING FROM THESE FILES, THEY'RE EVIDENTLY PLANNING AN "EXTRACTION ATTEMPT"...

--WITH VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS--



--TARGETING ONE OF GENOM'S "INTELLECTUAL ASSETS"...

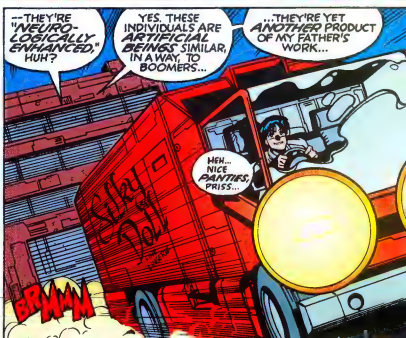


--PENETRATING THOUSANDS OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS, SIFTING THROUGH TERA-BYTES OF ELECTRONIC GARBAGE TO PIECE TOGETHER A WORKABLE MEANS OF ACHIEVING OUR GOAL--

--SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF DR. STINGRAY'S WORK--

--STINGRAY IS SURVIVED BY DAUGHTER SYLIA, TWELVE, AND--

--BOOMER'S FORM OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE--



--THEY'RE "NEURO-LOGICALLY ENHANCED," HUH?

YES, THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE ARTIFICIAL BEINGS SIMILAR, IN A WAY, TO BOOMERS...

--THEY'RE YET ANOTHER PRODUCT OF MY FATHER'S WORK...

HEH... NICE PANTS, PRISS...

BRMM

--SPICING IN THE DATA FROM THE LOST MEMORY MODULE, THE SKORPION INFODUMPS TO ME VIA AUDIO AND VIDEO SAMPLES ASSEMBLED DURING ITS YEARS OF RECONNAISSANCE.

THE SAMPLING TECHNIQUE'S SOMEWHAT ANNOYING, BUT YOU CAN GET USED TO IT.

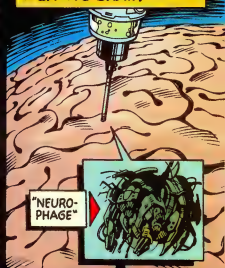
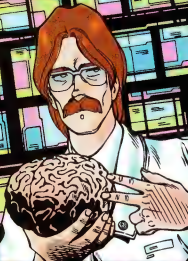
### VIDEO SAMPLE

--CRITICAL PART OF STINGRAY'S WORK FOR GENOM WAS HIS REPLICATION OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS IN "BOOMER TECHNOLOGY"--

--INSTEAD, MY FATHER TOOK THE ROUTE OF TRYING TO DIRECTLY CONVERT HUMAN BRAIN INTO A SOFTWARE ANALOG--

### VIDEO SAMPLE

--STINGRAY'S SO-CALLED "NEUROPHAGE," WHICH WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL BIO-COMPUTER-CONTROLLED MOLECULAR MACHINE DESIGNED TO BE INTRODUCED, MILLIONS AT A TIME, INTO A LIVING BRAIN--



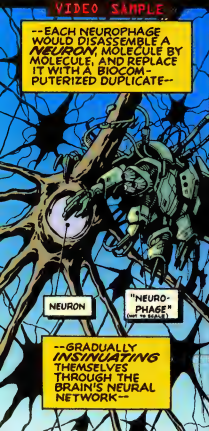
### VIDEO SAMPLE

--EACH NEUROPHAGE WOULD DISASSEMBLE A NEURON, MOLECULE BY MOLECULE, AND REPLACE IT WITH A BIOCOMPUTERIZED DUPLICATE--

--WEIRDLY ENOUGH, HEARING DESCRIPTIONS OF TINY MANMADE CRITTERS CHEWING THEIR WAY THROUGH BRAIN TISSUE--

### VIDEO SAMPLE

EVENTUALLY, ALL TISSUE WOULD BE REPLACED BY A MASS OF NEUROPHAGES THAT WOULD MIMIC THE OPERATION OF THE ORIGINAL BRAIN--



NEURON

"NEURO-PHAGE"  
(NOT TO SCALE!)

--GRADUALLY INSINUATING THEMSELVES THROUGH THE BRAIN'S NEURAL NETWORK--

--JUST MAKES ME HUNGRY--

--REPORTEDLY, STINGRAY WAS ANGERED BY GENOM'S RECKLESS EXPERIMENTATION--

--FAVORED LIMITED TESTING OF NEUROPHAGES ON--

--RETAINING MOST OF THE SUBJECT'S COGNITIVE, BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAITS--



ONCE THE CONVERSION WAS COMPLETE, EACH INDIVIDUAL NEUROPHAGE COULD **DOWNLOAD** ITS PARTICULAR DATA TO **EXTERNAL COUNTER-PARTS**.



THIS WAY, **SEPARATE** MASSES OF MOLECULAR BIOCOMPUTERS COULD BE SET UP AS "**COPIES**" OF THE ORIGINAL BRAIN.

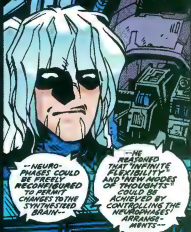
#### VIDEO SAMPLE

--REPORTEDLY, DR. STINGRAY OBJECTED TO GENOM'S USE OF **SIMPLIFIED**, AND THEREBY **UNSTABLE**, VERSIONS OF HIS WORK IN THE PRODUCTION BOOMERS--



--BUT DOC STINGRAY HAD **BOLDER** AIMS THAN MERELY **REPLICATING** HUMAN INTELLIGENCE.

NO, HE ACTUALLY WANTED TO DESIGN AN **IMPROVED** MODEL--

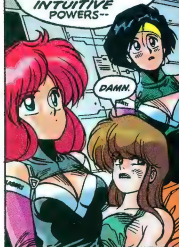


--NEUROPHAGES COULD BE FREELY RECONFIGURED TO PERMIT CHANGES TO THE SYNTHETIZED BRAIN--

--HE REASONED THAT "INFINITE FLEXIBILITY" AND "NEW MODELS OF THOUGHTS" COULD BE ACHIEVED BY CONTROLLING THE NEUROPHAGES' ARRANGEMENTS--

--AFTER FATHER'S DEATH, GENOM **CARRIED THROUGH** ON HIS THEORIES--

--AND CREATED SEVERAL BEINGS WITH GREATLY ENHANCED **COGNITIVE** AND **INTUITIVE** POWERS--



DAMN.

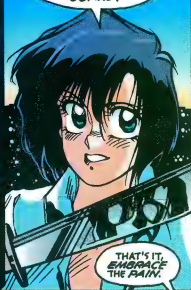
#### VIDEO SAMPLE

--HAS GENOM BEEN UTILIZING THE "**NEUROLOGICALLY ENHANCED**" TO DEFINE ITS CORPORATE STRATEGY?



SOURCES CLAIM THAT **MUCH** OF THE MEGA-CORPORATION'S STUNNING WORLDWIDE SUCCESS MAY BE DUE TO THESE ULTRASECRET "**INTELLECTUAL ASSETS**"--

--AND YET, SOMEHOW, I STILL DON'T FEEL **APPRECIATED** BY THOSE CRETINS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD!



THAT'S IT, **EMBRACE** THE RAIN.

AMAZINGLY, THE SKORPION'S DISCOVERED A WAY TO **CAPTURE** ONE OF THESE "**POSTHUMAN INTELLECTS**"--

...THOUGH, ALAS, THIS BREAK-THROUGH'S COME TOO LATE TO HELP OUR ORIGINAL EMPLOYERS.

OH, WELL.

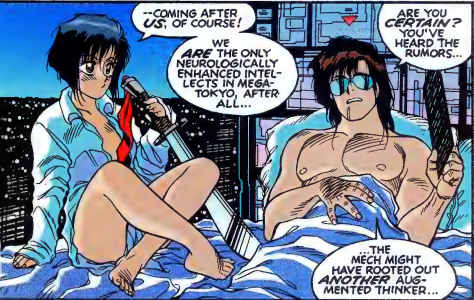




IT'S SENSELESS IDIOTRY  
TO CONTINUE WITH THIS  
MISSION, I KNOW.

BUT AS FUTILE,  
MEANINGLESS,  
AND EVEN  
SUICIDAL AS IT  
HAPPENS TO BE...

...THIS IS  
MY JOB.



--COMING AFTER  
US, OF COURSE!

WE  
ARE THE ONLY  
NEUROLOGICALLY  
ENHANCED INTEL-  
LECTS IN MEGA-  
TOKYO, AFTER  
ALL...

ARE YOU  
CERTAIN?  
YOU'VE  
HEARD THE  
RUMORS...

...THE  
MECH MIGHT  
HAVE ROOTED OUT  
ANOTHER AUG-  
MENTED THINKER...



"...A ROGUE  
"INTELLECTUAL  
ASSET," IF YOU  
WILL...



--WITH AN ATTACK  
ON GENOM TOWER  
IMMINENT, YOUR  
HARDSUIT'S SENSOR  
SUITES AND SURVEIL-  
LANCE GEAR WILL  
BE CRITICAL,  
NENE.

AFTER LAST  
NIGHT, ARE  
YOU FEELING  
UP TO  
THIS...?

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT  
ME,  
SYLIA!



I'M READY  
FOR  
ANYTHING!

EXCEPT  
A FIGHT,  
MAYBE...

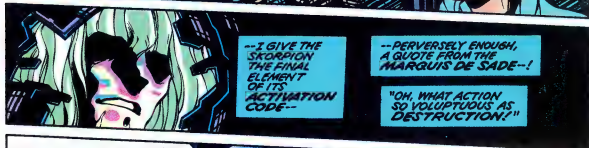
HUSH,  
LINNA.



--OR  
HE'S ON  
HIS WAY  
HERE.

EITHER  
WAY, THE  
ISSUE WILL  
BE RESOLVED  
**SHORTLY--**

--NOT TO  
MENTION  
**VIOLENTLY--**



--I GIVE THE  
SKORPION  
THE FINAL  
ELEMENT  
OF ITS  
ACTIVATION  
CODE--

--PERVERSELY ENOUGH,  
A QUOTE FROM THE  
**MARGUIS DE SADE--!**

"OH, WHAT ACTION  
SO VOLUPTUOUS AS  
**DESTRUCTION!**"



ONCE **MACKIE** COMES BACK,  
WE'LL HEAD TO A MONITORING  
POST CLOSE BY **GENOM**  
**TOWER--**

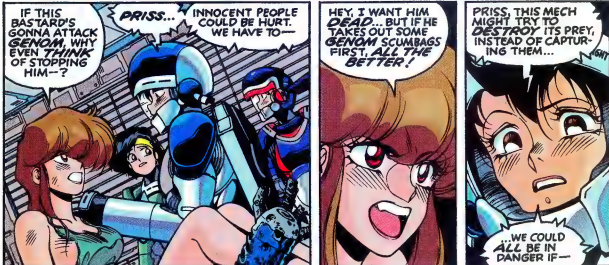
--IN CASE  
WE NEED TO  
**INTERVENE--**

**WHAT?**

ARE YOU  
**CRAZY?**



"THERE IS NO  
**ECSTASY**  
LIKE THE ONE  
WE TASTE--"



IF THIS  
BASTARD'S  
GONNA ATTACK  
**GENOM**, WHY  
EVEN **THINK**  
OF STOPPING  
HIM--?

**PRISS...** INNOCENT PEOPLE  
COULD BE HURT.  
WE HAVE TO--

HEY, I WANT HIM  
**DEAD...** BUT IF HE  
TAKES OUT SOME  
**GENOM** SCUMBAGS  
FIRST, **ALL** THE  
**BETTER!**

**PRISS**, THIS MECH  
MIGHT TRY TO  
**DESTROY** ITS PREY,  
INSTEAD OF CAPTUR-  
ING THEM...

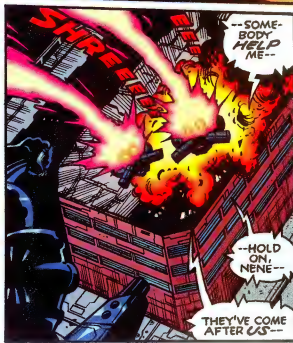
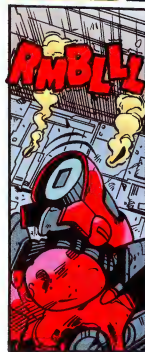
...WE COULD  
**ALL** BE IN  
DANGER IF--

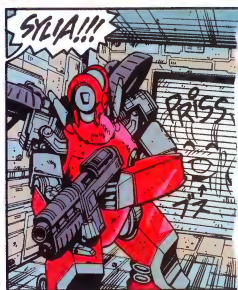
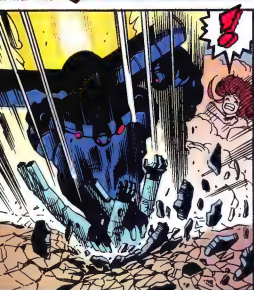


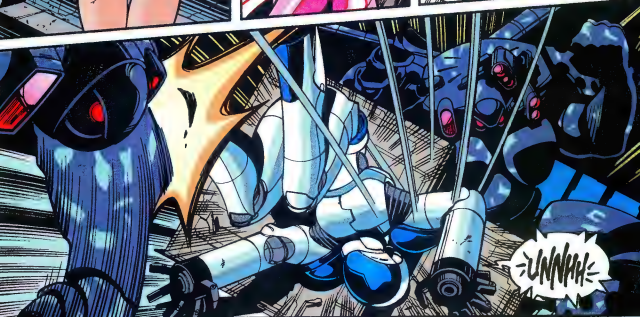
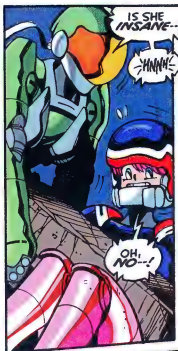
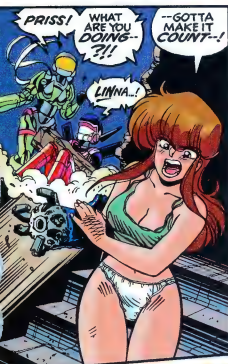
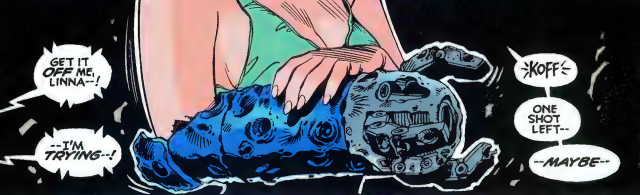
"WHEN  
WE GIVE  
OURSELVES  
OVER  
TO THIS  
DIVINE  
INFAMY!"

CHOOM  
CHOOM

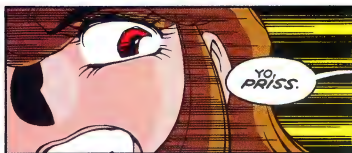
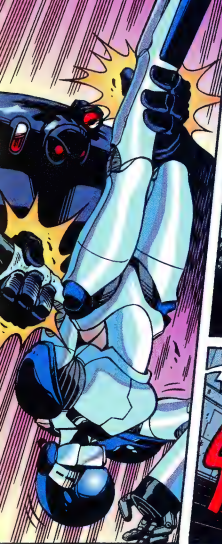
WHKROOM

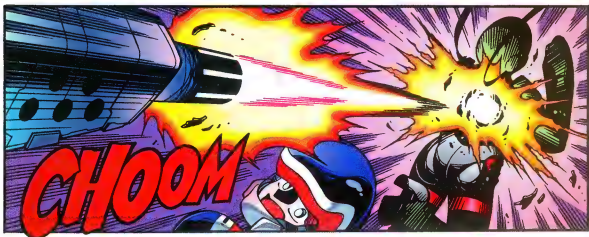
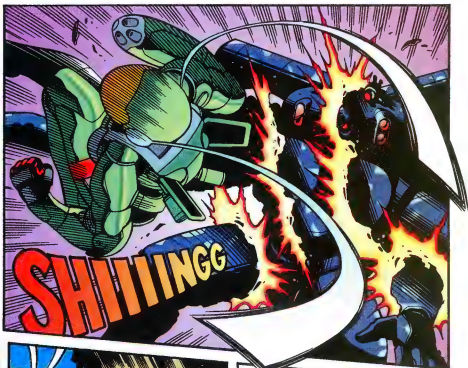


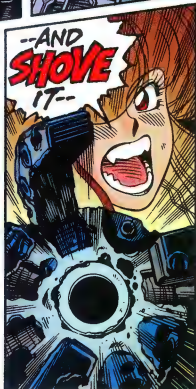
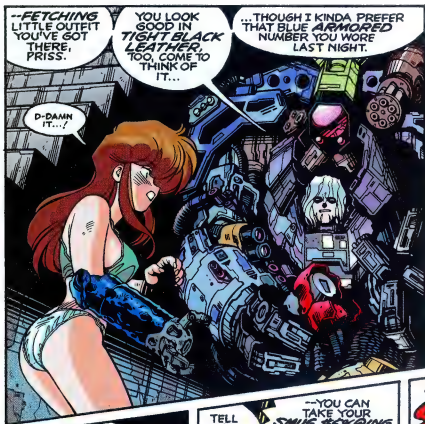




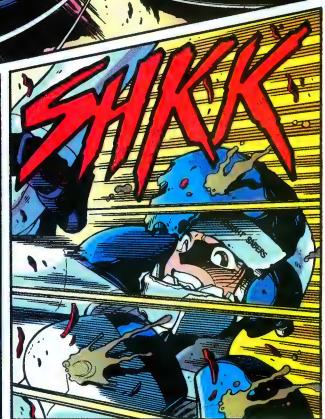
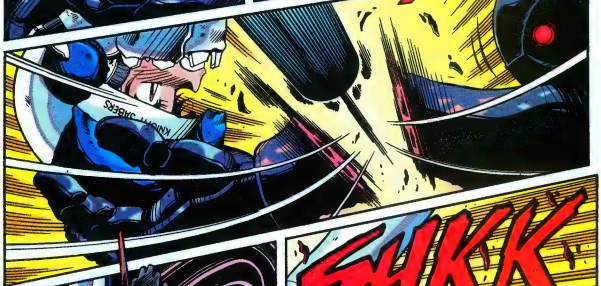
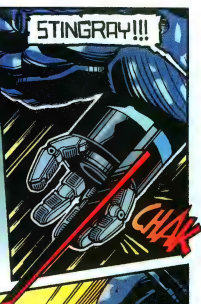














--M-MECH'S  
GOTTA BE RUNNING  
THOSE BOOMERS  
BY REMOTE  
LINK--!

SHOULD  
BE ABLE TO  
JAM THE  
SIGNAL--



--OR  
OVERRIDE  
IT--

--B-BUT  
THE SIGNAL'S  
FREQUENCY  
HOPPING--!



N-NO--  
PLEASE--

--DON'T--

--DON'T--

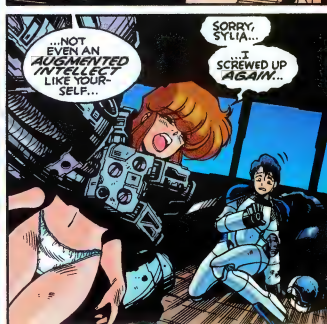


>HUHH<  
>HUHH<

SHOULD'VE  
EXPECTED  
THIS...



HEY,  
NOBODY'S  
PERFECT,  
SYLIA...



...NOT  
EVEN AN  
AUGMENTED  
INTELLECT  
LIKE YOUR-  
SELF...

SORRY,  
SYLIA...

...I  
SCREWED UP  
AGAIN...



DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO GENOM TOWER TO FIND ONE OF THE NEUROLOGICALLY ENHANCED, AFTER ALL...

...JUST HAD TO LOOK FOR YOU...!



DADDY JUST COULDN'T STOP HIMSELF, COULD HE?

STINGRAY HAD TO GIVE HIS LITTLE GIRL SOME VERSION OF HIS NEUROPHASE TREATMENT...



...NICE GUY, EXPERIMENTING ON HIS OWN CHILDREN...!

WHY, I EVEN READ ALL ABOUT IT IN YOUR NOT-SO-PRIVATE RECORDS, SYLIA...



VIDEO SAMPLE

"...TO AID YOU IN THIS..."

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AND YOUR BROTHER CERTAIN...GIFTS, YOU MIGHT SAY."



"CHOOSING TO ALTER YOU HAS BEEN BY FAR THE MOST PAINFUL DECISION I'VE EVER HAD TO--"



--SKORPION'S BEEN TRACKING YOU FOR YEARS--



LISTEN, YOU MERCENARY BASTARD--

--MY "CRUSADE" IS ALL THAT'S STOPPING GENOM FROM--

YEAH, RIGHT.



I'M SURE THAT THE VERY THOUGHT OF A COUPLE OF CUTE GIRLS PRANCING AROUND IN HIGH-HEELED ARMOR IS GONNA PUT THE FEAR OF GOD--



--KEEPING A CAREFUL WATCH ON YOUR GOOFY CRUSADE--

--UNTIL WE COULD REEL YOU IN.



--INTO THE MOST POWERFUL COMMERCIAL ENTITY IN HUMAN HISTORY--!

D-DAMN IT--!

YOU SAID YOU HATED GENOM!

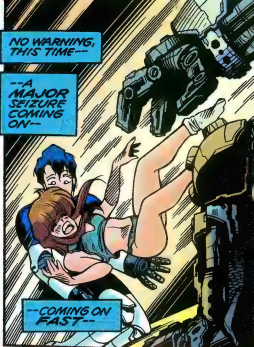




WHY ARE YOU  
ATTACKING THE  
ONLY ONES  
FIGHTING  
THEM--?!

SHIT!

A HALLUCINATION--!



NO WARNING,  
THIS TIME--

--A  
MAJOR  
SEIZURE  
COMING  
ON--

--COMING ON  
FAST--



--FAST--

--GOING  
UNDER--

--DAMN IT--

GNNNGGH

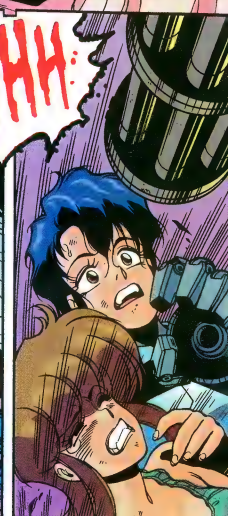


NNUHH

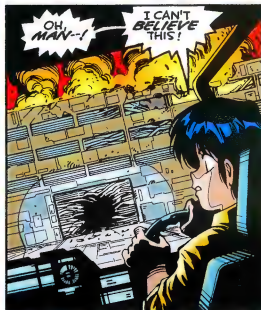
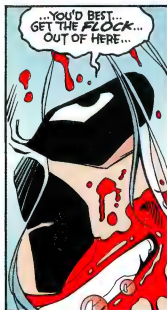
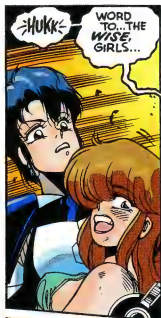
NNGH



NNNNGHH











DAMN... GETTING  
DISEMBOWELED BY  
AN ARMOR-PIERCING  
CANNON ROUND--

--CUT THAT  
SEIZURE  
RIGHT OFF--

--SHOULD LET  
MY NEURO-  
LOGIST KNOW  
ABOUT THIS  
ANTISEIZURE  
TREATMENT--



--WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO YOU  
GUYS--?!

...DON'T  
ASK...

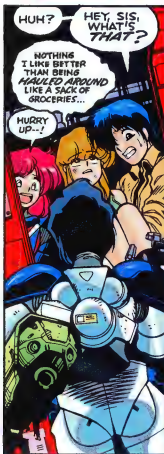
MACKIE!  
I SAVED  
THE  
DAY!

WE'RE  
GETTING  
OUT OF  
HERE,  
NOW--



--DEATH--

--IT'S THE ONE  
SURE CURE  
FOR WHAT  
AILS YOU--



HUH?

HEY, SIS,  
WHAT'S  
THAT?

NOTHING  
I LIKE BETTER  
THAN BEING  
HAULED AROUND  
LIKE A SACK OF  
GROCERIES...

HURRY  
UP--!



THIS ISN'T  
SO BAD

MAYBE I  
SHOULOVE



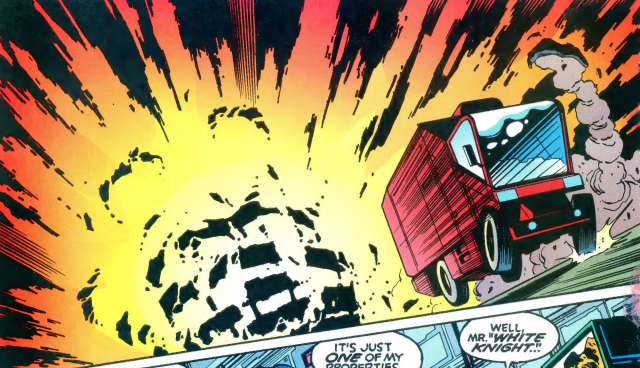
A LITTLE **SOUVENIR**  
FOR OUR TROUBLES,  
YOU MIGHT SAY--



DONE THIS

SOONER

POP



JEEZ,  
SYLIA...

...I'M SORRY  
ABOUT YOUR, UM,  
BUILDING...!

IT'S JUST  
ONE OF MY  
PROPERTIES...

WELL,  
MR. "WHITE  
KNIGHT..."

...I'LL  
SURVIVE  
THE  
LOSS.

YEAH...

...SORRY  
BOUT  
THAT...

...REST  
IN  
PEACE...

...OR REST  
IN *PIECES*...  
AS THE CASE  
MAY BE...

AT LEAST  
THERE WON'T  
BE ANYTHING  
LEFT TO  
INTEREST THE  
ADPOLICE...

...AND  
SOME OF THE  
DATA FROM THIS  
SKORPION'S  
FILES MIGHT BE  
OF VALUE...

...SO  
SOME GOOD,  
HOWEVER  
LIMITED,  
MIGHT COME  
FROM ALL  
THIS...

...WHATEVER...

**KLIK**

THE  
END

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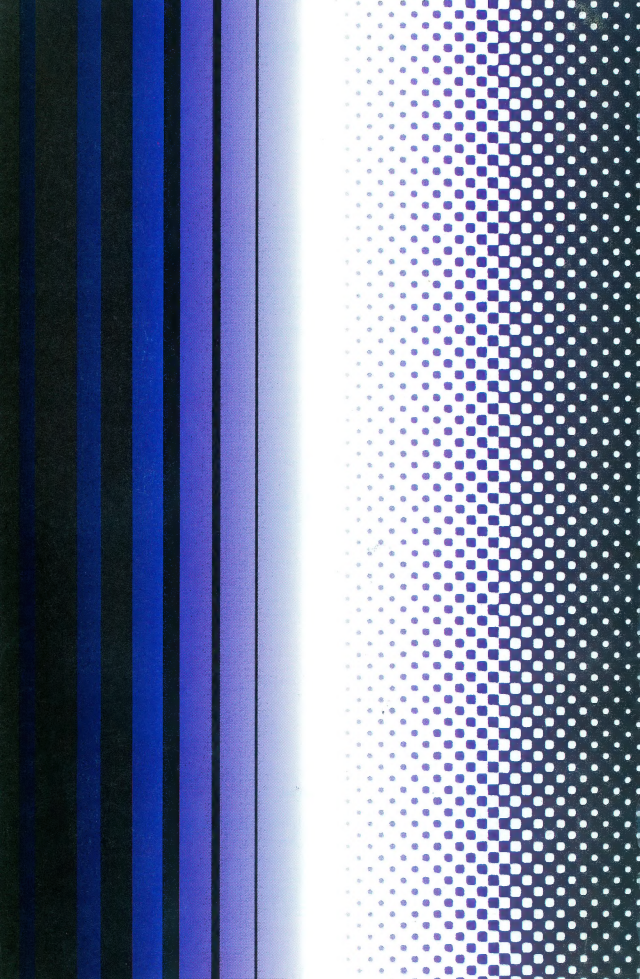
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